



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Sinkhole Repairs Mired In Red (and Yellow) Tape

By Loren J. Bialik

According to a May 13 fax from the Department of Public Works, "Our record shows that the only [street] project currently taking place [in Noe Valley] is at Church Street and 21st Street."

Noe Valley residents might dispute that claim.

DPW crews have left their sawhorses and flashing lights around at least two street cave-ins in Noe Valley for more than three months. They've also been ripping up Castro, Chattanooga, 22nd, and 23rd streets on a regular basis. At press time, 24th Street was in shambles, just in time for Memorial Day Weekend.

Some people are beginning to think it's a plot to drive the neighborhood crazy.

### The Sanchez Street Saga

A pair of sinkholes, apparently caused by collapsing sewer pipes, seem to have found a permanent home in the middle of Sanchez Street between 27th and Cesar Chavez.

Although street barricades and yellow tape indicate that DPW has surveyed the crevices, according to Maurita Beattie, who lives on that block of Sanchez, no real repair work has been done in the past three months. The "no parking" tags on the sandwich boards on the sidewalk state that repairs were supposed to be finished by May 7, but that date has come and gone with barely a shovel in sight. (The date was recently switched to May 31.)

The city came out and dumped a mound of dirt and asphalt near the two potholes in April, but that just made traffic and parking conditions worse.

"DPW tried to fill in the holes, but they kept getting bigger," said Beattie. "Then

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There's a sinkhole in the block of Vicksburg Street between 24th and Elizabeth that has been around so long (since February), it's almost a landmark. Photo by Nojib Joe Hakim



**Summer in the Trees:** A recent sunny weekend inspired Lizzie Nattinger (right) and neighbor Emerald Carroll to restock and repaint their Noe Valley tree house. The girls chose a deep teal for the furniture and cupboards. Younger sister Carrie Nattinger (left) was allowed to assist. (The location is secret, of course.) Photo by Beverly Sharp

## Noe Valley Groups Reject Art for Muni Ramps

By Sally Smith

"Why in hell didn't they pick an artist who lived here in Noe Valley?" —Paul Kantus of the East & West of Castro Club

"One design looked like it had little pink pygmies riding on a long green undulating tapeworm." —Eleanore Gerhardt of the Friends of Noe Valley

The reaction was so strong, you'd think Robert Mapplethorpe had done the art.

Two of the neighborhood's most established groups, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley, have rejected the designs for the mural to go on new handicapped ramps along the J-Church line.

If the groups can convince Muni they speak for the neighborhood, the two ramps in Noe Valley—at Church and 24th and Church and Day streets—will have no art, just a flat gray panel set in concrete.

Meanwhile, the other two Muni "Key Stops" on the J-line—at Church and 18th and Church and Market—will boast a

colorful 2-by-10-foot ceramic mural on the side of the wheelchair-accessible platforms. (See photo on page 5.)

### They'd Prefer a Blank Wall

The thumbs-down signal came at a joint meeting of Friends and East & West at the Noe Valley Library on May 9. It was attended by about 30 people.

When Muni representative John Katz unveiled the two alternative designs painted by Guerrero Street artist Tirso Gonzalez, the audience seemed stunned.

"People just sat there with their mouths open. Then we burst out laughing. We howled," said Friends member Eleanore Gerhardt. "It was in primary colors—tropical, bright, primitive colors—and it didn't look anything like Noe Valley."

East & West of Castro Club President Paul Kantus agreed that the designs had sort of an Aztec flavor and might be more appropriate for the outer Mission.

"I would rather see a skyline of Noe Valley, something by a neighborhood

## Search Widens For Suspect In Wrench Attack

By Steve Steinberg

A brutal assault on an unsuspecting Noe Valley shopkeeper has prompted San Francisco police to classify the crime as an attempted murder, and to launch an intensive search for the assailant in Noe Valley, across the city, and throughout the Bay Area via cable television.

The unprovoked attack occurred in the early afternoon of April 22, in a gift store located on the 3700 block of 24th Street (near Church). The owner of the store—who did not want her name or the name of the business divulged, because the attacker is still at large—said she was alone in the shop when a neatly dressed man entered the store and began looking around.

The man stayed about 20 minutes, then left the shop, only to return a few minutes later. At that point, without saying anything and for no apparent reason, the man began striking the merchant on the head and body with a large wrench.

She tried to defend against the blows that rained down on her with her hands and arms. "I guess that's why I have a broken arm," the merchant said.

In addition to a broken right arm, the

*Continued on Page 3*

### There's Still Time to Enter the 1996 Literary Contest

*The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit a story, essay, or poems to our second annual Literary Contest.*

*We will award prizes in three categories—fiction, nonfiction, and poetry—and publish the results in our Summer Literary Issue, distributed August 1. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 1996.*

*Please see page 2 of this issue for contest rules.*

artist like Ruth Asawa," Kantus said. "Some of us met with the artist to discuss ideas [a few months before]. We told him we wanted a picture of our unique buildings, the hills, the people.... What we got was just abstract zigzag lines."

Gerhardt said Muni's Katz pointed out that the murals would be graffiti-proof. "One of the Friends stood up and said, 'But this is graffiti!'"

Then the group was asked to pick their favorite of the two designs. Katz explained that all four of the key stops along the J-line would have the same art panel.

"That's when we asked if there was a third choice—nothing," Kantus said. "We'd rather look at a plain gray block."

*Continued on Page 5*

**Bring Spam for S.P.A.M.**

Editor:

My name is David Wehrer and I am a student at McAteer High School. I am writing to let you know that a group of students and teachers have formed an organization called S.P.A.M. — Student Positive Action at McAteer.

We intend to clean up our school and help our community by raising money, enlisting volunteers, and collecting canned food and clothes in order to help out our homeless brothers and sisters. We also want to give other students various ways of serving their community and living with the stress of society by helping others less fortunate than themselves.

We are especially in need of money, canned food, and VOLUNTEERS to help us. You do not have to be a student to donate — you just need the will to make things better.

We are not limiting ourselves, so if you have any suggestions or would like to help, call or write us as soon as possible.

The contact person is Anne Bjornson, 695-5700, ext. 250.

David Wehrer  
McAteer High School  
555 Portola Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94131

**LETTERS 32¢****Bell Senior Deliveries at Risk**

Editor:

Do senior citizens in Noe Valley know that Bell Market on 24th Street offers a special delivery service on Wednesday mornings?

For the small sum of \$3, they will carefully bring your groceries to your door. Bell adds another \$3, so the delivery people get \$6 per delivery. I find it so helpful, I add a tip for encouragement.

However, I have learned recently that there are not enough people using this service to continue it unless we can get more participants. I would miss it very much, because it is hard to carry heavy packages. My arthritis kicks up.

There is a minimum amount of purchase — about \$30 — which isn't hard to meet, especially if I save my shopping until Wednesday morning.

If carrying groceries is a problem, take advantage of this great service every Wednesday morning.

If you have any questions, call Larry Alperstein, who has organized this amenity for seniors. Ask about including handicapped people as well. His phone number is 255-2325.

L.E. Partridge  
Guerrero Street

**Right-Wing Romance**

Editor:

While we certainly do congratulate and wish the best to our gay brothers (and sisters) who were recently "united in marriage ceremonies sanctified by the City of San Francisco" ("Noe Valley Couples Celebrate Gay Rites," *Noe Valley Voice*, May 1996), we were distressed that Tom Maravilla — the "just married" of Mike Meischke — would politicize a joyous celebration of gay commitment and love by declaring that he and his spouse "wanted to be part of something that would fly in the face of the hate-mongering right wing, which is gaining power in this country."

We are gay lovers/husbands/spouses — now well into the 17th year of our committed, monogamous relationship — who are "right-wing" conservative Republicans. Quite frankly, we see the "hate mongering" coming — with frightening and suffocating zeal — from the Left, which has embraced the speech and conduct codes of political correctness (anti-First Amendment) and gun control (anti-Second Amendment), and only temporarily failed to control the most personal decisions of our lives through Hillary Rodham Clinton's health care initiatives.

Further, having executed all legal documents necessary to protect our interests both in life and death, we, as anti-government conservatives, disdain any city or state approbation of our love, just as

**Voice Mail**

The *Voice* is eager to receive your letters to the editor, for possible publication in future issues.

Write to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send brief e-mail correspondence (no long manuscripts, please) to [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com).

Remember to include your name, address, and phone number, so that we can contact you if we have questions. Note that letters may be edited for clarity and conciseness. Unsigned letters (anonymous notes) will not be considered for publication.

To check out our home page on the World Wide Web, go to <http://www.noevalleyvoice.com>. ☐

we, as atheists, reject any church sanctions for our relationship.

That said: Our warmest, best wishes to Mike and Tom, to Denise Ratliff and Deborah Oakley-Melvin, and to all others who let the whole world know that gay love — like its straight counterpart — dares speak its name!!

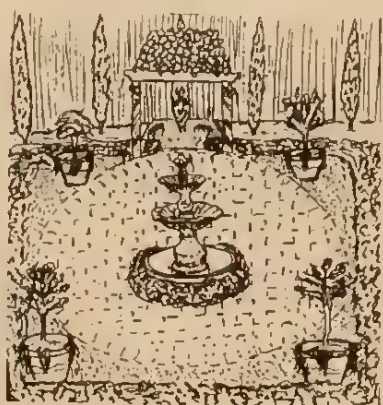
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**Call for Submissions****The Noe Valley Voice****1996 Literary Contest**

Deadline: Saturday, June 15, 1996

The *Noe Valley Voice* is proud to announce the 1996 Literary Contest and the August publication of our second annual *Summer Literary Issue*, dedicated to the winners in three categories: **Fiction** (short stories), **Non-Fiction** (first-person essays), and **Poetry**.

**PRIZES** (awarded in all three categories):

- First Place** \$100 cash and \$50 gift certificate to Carroll's Books  
**Second Place** \$50 and \$25 gift certificate to Cover to Cover Booksellers  
**Third Place** \$25 and \$25 gift certificate to Phoenix Books and Records

The nine prize winners, along with any honorable mentions, space permitting, will appear in the August 1996 edition of the *Noe Valley Voice* (circulation 10,000), distributed Aug. 1, 1996. Subject matter is unlimited, but remember — this is a family newspaper, passed down from generation to generation! The *Voice* will host an August reading and reception for the winners in Noe Valley.

**CONTEST RULES**

1. Manuscripts must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished, and no more than 2,000 words. They should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of 8 1/2 x 11" white paper.
2. Fiction and Non-Fiction contestants may enter 1 manuscript per category. Poetry contestants may enter 2 poems.
3. Please submit 3 copies of your manuscript(s). Do not send originals.
4. Put the title of the work and the contest category you are entering on the first page of your manuscript, but omit your name and address. Enclose a separate cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, contest category, and title of the work. Entries will neither be returned nor their receipt acknowledged.
5. There is no entry fee. Entries will be judged by members of the *Voice* staff.
6. All persons except current staff — and freelance contributors who have published more than one piece in the *Voice* since Aug. 31, 1995 — are eligible to enter.
7. The *Noe Valley Voice* reserves the right to publish the winning entries and any honorable mentions, space permitting, in the August 1996 *Literary Issue*. We also hope to publish selected winners on our home page on the Internet ([www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)), but we promise to seek your permission first.
8. All entries must be received at the *Voice* office by June 15, 1996. Winners will be notified by July 26 and announced in the Aug. 1 issue. (No phone calls, please.)
9. Mail entries to the *Noe Valley Voice* 1996 *Literary Contest*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Thank you and best of luck.



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE  
1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Wednesday of the month. Subscriptions are available at a cost of \$15 per year (\$9 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication, however.) Please note that unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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*Heads Up*

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# Wrench Attack

*Continued from Page 1*

owner sustained a fractured finger on her left hand and required several stitches to her head.

Fortunately, another shopper entering the store interrupted the attack and perhaps saved the merchant's life, according to police. Upon noticing the intruder, the assailant dropped the wrench and fled out the door.

The shopkeeper was taken to San Francisco General's Trauma Center, where she was treated and later released.

Police have ruled out robbery as a motive, since no money or goods were taken, and the suspect did not ask the owner for any money prior to the assault.

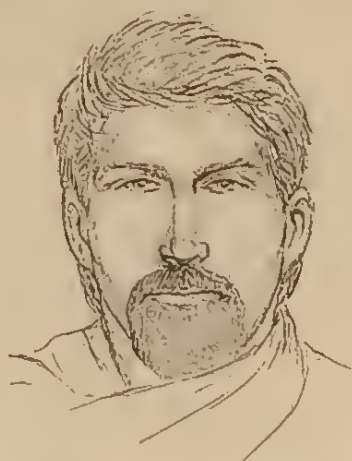
The merchant said she did not know her attacker, and according to San Francisco Police Sergeant David Herman of the General Works Division, police have thus far ruled out any personal connection between the two.

Herman stressed the seriousness of the crime, however. "I think this person was trying to kill her."

In an effort to track down the suspect, a police description will be broadcast repeatedly on cable TV's "Crime Watch," Herman said. He also said he was trying to arrange to have the crime reenacted on the nationally syndicated show *Crime Stoppers*.

In the meantime, police have distributed a composite sketch and description of the suspect all over Noe Valley. The assailant is described as a well-groomed white male in his 30s, 6 feet tall, weighing 200 pounds. He has brown hair, a Vandyke beard and mustache, and was last seen wearing a brown jacket, blue jeans, tennis shoes, and a floral-patterned scarf around his neck.

## ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT (DO NOT ARREST-IDENTIFY ONLY)



In early May, police released this sketch of a man who brutally beat a 24th Street shop owner on April 22. The suspect is described as a well-groomed white male in his 30s, 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, with a closely trimmed beard and mustache. At the time of the incident, he was wearing a brown jacket, blue jeans, tennis shoes, and a floral patterned scarf around his neck. If you know someone who matches this description, contact Sgt. Dave Herman at 553-1141, ext. 7904.

Sergeant Herman said police were following several leads in the case, but he declined to elaborate, except to say that he had gotten numerous calls from people who claimed to recognize the suspect. "The problem is that Vandykes [closely trimmed beards] are very popular right now, and that has caused a lot of people to call about seeing someone who looks like the composite sketch."

Herman also praised Noe Valley beat officers Lois Perillo and Ed Collins for their efforts to spread the word and develop information regarding the case.

In addition to the police bulletin, Mission Station Captain Al Casciato published an "open letter to the Noe Valley community," in which he gave details of

the assault and noted that "several people who saw the suspect rendered first aid [to the shopkeeper]. There has been an outpouring of community support to the victim."

In mid-May, the shopkeeper told the *Voice* she was "doing fine" and that her injuries were expected to heal. She also expressed personal thanks to the many local merchants who had offered support. "I really appreciate that."

The merchant also said that even though she is back at work, she has had to curtail store hours, since she didn't want to be alone or have her employees alone in the shop, for fear the attacker would come back.

Meanwhile, Community Police Officer Lois Perillo suggested that 24th Street shopkeepers be a little more "vigilant" these days and watchful of people entering and lingering in their stores.

Noe Valley merchants, especially those in the vicinity of the assault, seemed to be doing just that.

Terry O'Rourke, manager of Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room at Church and 24th, said he had become more cautious, even since before the attack. "There have been some weird, suspicious-looking people coming in and looking around the last couple of months," O'Rourke said. He called the attack a shame for the neighborhood.

Across the street at West Coast Video, owner and manager Jim Leal said he was "always alert.... We have had crazy people come in, but I know how to handle them."

At nearby Guys and Dolls clothing store, owner Graciela Ronconi said she too had become more aware of just who her customers were. Ronconi had the police sketch of the suspect prominently displayed above her counter.

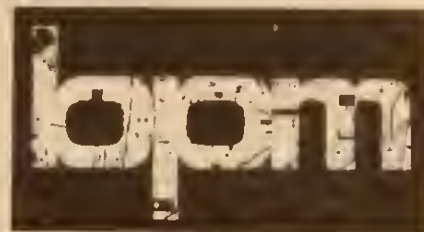
Anyone who has information about the April 22 attack should contact Sergeant Dave Herman at 553-1141, or call Mission Police Station at 558-5400. □

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# Residents Have a Sinking Feeling About Potholes

Continued from Page 1

the city told us that PG&E was going to dig up the street, so DPW wasn't going to do anything further."

Beattie's neighbor, Herbert Massey, called PG&E. "They said that it wasn't their project and referred me back to the city. It's rather frustrating."

The residents say the cars trying to navigate around the mess are creating a hazard for drivers and pedestrians. Also, at least five parking spaces have been lost while imaginary workers fix the sinkholes.

Naturally, if you park in the "temporary" no-parking zones, you are subject to a \$23 ticket. According to Beattie, the residents on Sanchez have been so enraged over the loss of parking, they've thrown some of the barriers down.

## Vicksburg Looks Like a Crime Scene

Stroll over to Vicksburg between 24th and Elizabeth streets and you'll uncover a similar problem. A sinkhole has been settling into the middle of narrow Vicksburg Street since February. Because of the large barricades that now surround the hole, driving is particularly risky. The residents, who've given up four parking spaces, are starting to regard the barriers and police tags as permanent fixtures.

Brian Powers, who lives on Vicksburg, said, "I went out running one day. When I came back, I saw Officer Lois Perillo and another officer taping off the street. It looked like a crime scene. They said



When Noe Valley residents woke up one April morning to hear KGO-Radio reporting "a large sinkhole in Noe Valley," most just muttered, "So what else is new?" But this hole was actually a broken water main, spewing water into the 200 block of 15th Street between Noe and Castro. The Water Department responded immediately, pumping out and repairing the break. But other departments, who shall remain nameless, have not been so quick to fix a backlog of potholes, busted pipelines, and half-patched pavements in the neighborhood. Photo by Beverly Tharp

there was a sinkhole, so DPW came by and tested it.

"The last time [DPW revisited the scene] was about three weeks ago [in April]. I haven't heard anything further."

## Constant Drilling on 24th Street

Gary Speer, who manages Graystone Wine and Liquor at the corner of 24th and Castro, may have been ready for a stiff drink on Friday, May 10.

At 7:30 in the morning, street workers

woke him up as they commenced drilling on 24th Street near his home. "It shook the building like an earthquake," he said.

Later, the crew started drilling in front of his liquor store, informing him less than an hour before the work began. "If I had known this was going to happen, I wouldn't have cleaned all the bottles and shelves on Saturday."

Speer is doubly annoyed because he's had to endure six months of street repairs from October 1995 to March of this year, as the city fixed a water main break and repaved Castro Street.

Read the flyer that Speer received from DPW and you're not sure you're reading English: "The work will consist of cold planning [sic], asphalt concrete wearing surfaces, reconstructing concrete base... and doing all related and incidental work." It makes the Internet seem easy by comparison.

Those aren't the only street projects driving people to distraction. DPW has also been carving up the sidewalk corners in Noe Valley to make them wheelchair accessible. Ben Chan, public affairs officer at DPW, explains that there were errors in the initial construction, and the project has to be re-done...and re-done...to satisfy federal disability laws.

## DPW Plans to Go Online

As neighbors learned and the *Voice* confirmed, it's not easy getting answers from DPW's Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair, the department responsible for street repairs throughout the city.

Richard Cunningham, bureau superintendent, says his department lacks a computerized data base of specific sites, so it's difficult to discuss a certain project without an inspector going out to check on it.

In July of this year, a new computer system will allow the bureau to sort individual projects by zip code, thus making the city more accountable to the public. Cunningham even expects to list the jobs on the Internet, so citizens can go online to find out what projects are being performed in their neighborhood.

On May 14, prompted by the *Voice*'s inquiry, Cunningham sent an inspector to view the sinkholes at Sanchez and 27th and Vicksburg and 24th. Both problems were caused by cracks in sewer joints that carried away soil and undermined the pavement.

Cunningham told the *Voice* that the en-

tire sewer on Sanchez would be repaired. The sinkhole on Vicksburg is not as serious, he said, and only the specific part of the sewer where the sinkhole is located will be mended.

## Residents Left to Sink or Swim

But why is the work taking so long? "There are 850 miles of sewers and 480 jobs that are unattended," Cunningham said. "We get to them as they get worse. Every 10 days we re-prioritize them. Ones that get worse get put higher on the list. We can't get to all of them immediately because there just aren't enough funds."

Noe Valley, like most neighborhoods in San Francisco, has many old sewer pipes that need replacement. The average age of a sewer pipe in the city is 70 years old. Most sewers last about 100 years.

To those residents concerned that Noe Valley will sink into the sunset as did a home in Seacliff last winter, Chan said, "The full results of the study of the Seacliff problem are still pending. What is known so far is that the house that collapsed was built on a sand dune. Noe Valley is not built on sand dunes." That's reassuring.

Regarding the gobbledygook on the flyer handed out to merchants like Speer, both Cunningham and Chan acknowledge that they could make their notices easier for people to understand.

"What the flyer really means is that we're going to repave the street," said Cunningham.

The biggest frustration Noe Valley residents expressed was over parking spaces being kept out of circulation while they waited weeks, and sometimes months, for repair crews to show up.

Cunningham didn't seem to have a solution for this problem. He said the city often subcontracted its jobs to private firms. "The contractor retains access to the streets," while performing the work.

Asked whether we'd still have our sinkholes in June, Cunningham had no concrete answer. "We'll get to them as soon as we can."

In the meantime, as a city sign on Sanchez says, "Thank you for your patience."

To inquire about a particular DPW project, call Richard Cunningham at 695-2101 or send him a fax at 695-2097.



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## Groups Say No To Muni Murals

*Continued from Page 1*

When Katz said okay, the group took a vote, and rejected both designs.

In late May, Cecile Lozano, co-chair of Friends of Noe Valley, confirmed that her group was opposing the artwork. "All we're trying to do is preserve the beauty and quality of the neighborhood," she said. "Art is subjective. It's impossible to please everybody — I know, I'm an advertising art director. As art, [Gonzalez's work] was a nice piece of design.

"But nobody liked them — for this neighborhood, that is. The majority said they'd rather have no art on the ramps, unless there was a way we could have some new designs that would reflect the atmosphere and feeling of Noe Valley."

Lozano and Kantus are drafting a joint letter to Muni and the San Francisco Art Commission, formally rejecting the two designs for the stops in Noe Valley.

### Muni Won't Force Murals on Noe

Meanwhile, John Scott, Muni's community liaison on the project, said no hard decision had been made on whether to exclude the murals from the two stops in Noe Valley. However, he said, "if there's serious opposition, it's certainly possible that Noe Valley could have no art at all."

Colleague John Katz, who is project planner for the Muni Metro Key Stops Project, said Muni would not force public art on a community that didn't want it. "We're not wedded to this," he said.

But both Scott and Katz stressed that Muni would need to receive a letter from the neighborhood groups. "It should state their opposition to the art and give a definition of who they represent. Muni will then have a meeting and weigh the groups' influence before deciding whether to go with one of the two pieces of art or with none at all at those stops," Scott said.

Katz also wanted to make sure Noe Valley residents understood that the mural was not just for their neighborhood. "We wanted a design for the whole J-line, compatible with 18th and Church and Market and Church stops as well."

He noted that Gonzalez was one of four artists selected by the Art Commission to design murals for the city's five streetcar lines, all of which will have wheelchair-accessible ramps in compliance with federal disability laws. He and the other artists were paid \$2,500 each.

If Noe Valley nixes the designs, Katz said, "there will be nothing on the plain gray panel. It's too late to develop a new set of art works unless it's community generated and funded."

Scott explained that Muni had shown the artwork at two prior community meetings, one at Bethany Church and another at St. Francis Lutheran Church. Both were sparsely attended, but the artist was



If art critics from the Friends of Noe Valley and East & West of Castro Club have their way, neither of these designs by Guerrero Street artist Tirso Gonzalez will adorn the new Muni ramps on Church Street at 24th and Day streets. However, the top design, which has turquoise palm trees and red figures on a yellow background, was picked for the two other ramps along the J-line at Church and Market and Church and 18th.

on hand to explain his work. Those who came chose the design with the palm trees. "We only had one vote for the other design," Scott said.

Scott added that Muni would present the art at one more meeting in June, with merchants in the Market and Church area. (Call him at 468-2200 for details.)

### Artist Restricted to Three Colors

Tirso Gonzalez is just sorry he was unable to make the May 9 meeting at the Noe Valley Library.

If he'd had the chance, he would have explained the reasons he used bright colors and abstract shapes. "Muni and the Art Commission said I could only use three colors, and the design had to be bold and graphic to stand out," Gonzalez said.

Muni had also told him the design should be more like an image or signature for the line, not a painting in a museum. "They didn't want people to cross into the street" to get a closer look, he said.

As part of the design process, Gonzalez was asked to explore the neighborhood on foot, talk to the residents, and attend a series of community meetings.

Since February, he's spent hours sketching and painting, and trying to find a consensus of neighborhood identity along the J-line from Market to 30th Street.

He attended an earlier meeting of the East & West Club and one at MikeyTom Market on Church Street. "They made many suggestions. They said I should include the Dolores Street palm trees, and capture the diversity and sense of community and the working-class background of Noe Valley," he said.

The design that will go up at 18th and Market streets has "abstract figures holding hands. I thought the animals would reflect the working class. I've seen roosters in back yards here," Gonzalez noted. "Also, these symbols—the moon and the triangle—are universal symbols."

The colors will be red and turquoise on a yellow background. "If people feel the colors are too strong, I will try to lower the tones," Gonzalez said.

Still, he's "offended by all the negative criticism," and that people assumed he is not a neighborhood artist. Though he returned to his native Mexico from 1991 to 1995, he has lived and worked in the Mission and Noe Valley since 1977. He was a member of the Noe Valley Community Store collective, a teacher at Mission Cultural Center, and a curator at Galeria de la Raza. This summer he will work with students at Sanchez Elementary School to paint three murals inside the school.

He thinks the Friends and East & West of Castro Club are making a big mistake.

"They want steel and concrete? I feel it's very unfortunate for the other residents of Noe Valley to have these platforms with no art."

### The Balkanization of the City

Richard Newirth, director of cultural affairs at the Art Commission, also thinks the neighborhood will regret the decision.

"Having no art at all is a loss for all the other residents of Noe Valley."

In his view, the groups have grown too insular. "It's part of the Balkanization of this city. They seem to have forgotten that the J-Church line goes through Noe Valley and the Mission."

Newirth feels Friends of Noe Valley and East & West owe the art a second look.

"They ridiculed the artist," whereas others were quite excited about the design.

"Public art is controversial. It's a risky business. One man's modern art is another man's Rembrandt."

If you'd like to register an opinion, write to John Katz, Project Planner, Muni Metro Key Stops Project, 1155 Market St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. Also send a copy to the San Francisco Art Commission, Attn: Richard Newirth, Director of Cultural Affairs, 25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94102. □

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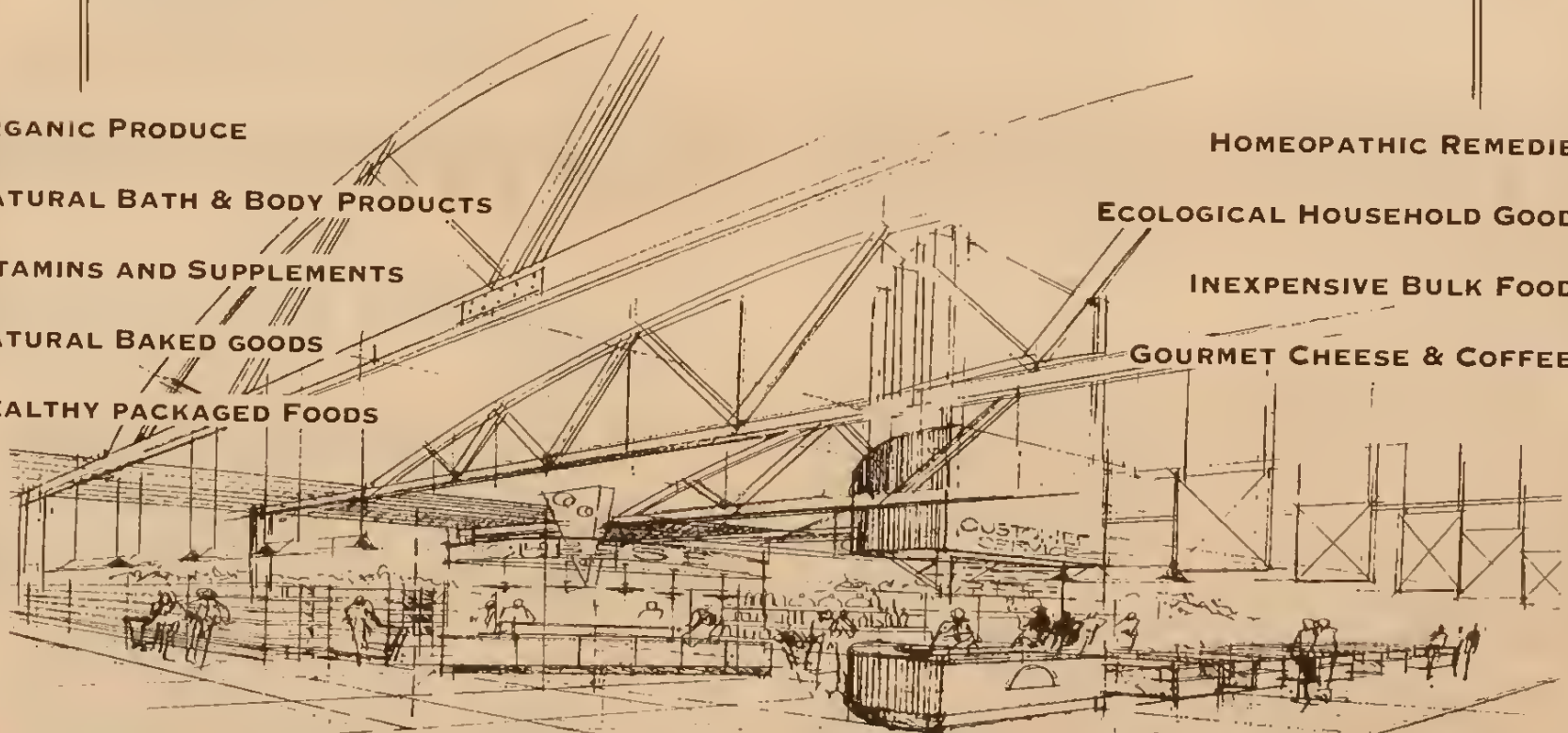
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# All the Kids Are Wearing Them: School Uniforms

By Debra Wolf

Recently, while standing in the lobby of James Lick Middle School on Noe Street, I made a quick observation: blue jeans, black jeans, tee shirts, and sweat-shirts are the dress of choice for middle school youth in the '90s. I saw an occasional sweater, and a button-down flannel shirt or two, but not one girl wore a dress or skirt. Not one boy wore slacks.

In a school known for its diversity, with a student body of many backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles, one thing was clear: all the students dressed about the same.

Yet there is a movement afoot in this and other public schools in the city to adopt a school uniform policy. At least six schools already have, or are instituting, dress codes. And it's possible that another 15 to 16 schools will enact a dress code by next year.

One would expect today's middle school youth, offspring of the '60s generation of protest, sit-ins, and demonstrations, to object strongly to uniforms. On the contrary, the middle schools in and around Noe Valley that are now enacting a uniform policy are doing so with little conflict or controversy.

On April 10, James Lick asked its parents and students to vote on whether to have a uniform policy at the school. In order to implement such a policy, the state requires 75 percent of the school body to return a vote.

About a third of the ballots have come back to James Lick. Of this third, according to Principal Joan Hepperly, 80 to 90 percent favor school uniforms.

Hepperly, who was the originator of the uniform proposal for James Lick, has organized a group of parents to follow up with second ballots and reminder telephone calls to get the required vote back to the school.

## Everett Picks a Parochial School Look

Meanwhile, over at Everett Middle School on Church Street, the parents and administration have already decided to adopt a dress code. Next year, students will be wearing the traditional parochial school attire of blue slacks, white shirt, and shorts or skirt.

Delores Caballero, the parent of a seventh-grade daughter at Everett, was in the forefront of the push for uniforms.

She worked with a group of parents who say the students need uniforms to teach them professionalism, "teaching A to Z," as she called it. She also believes uniforms are neater and less costly for parents, and that they address safety concerns within the school.

James Lick's Hepperly is also concerned about safety. She maintains that requiring uniforms will reduce youth gang activity which emphasizes gang colors in clothing, a growing concern in middle schools. Further, she thinks a dress code is an effective way to identify outsiders, particularly kids who might be trespassing on school property.

Those who disagree believe that changing the dress of students will not re-



Everett student Brandon Mendiola, 14 (left), models what the kids at his school will have to say goodbye to next year. Team jackets and baggy pants will make way for a parochial-style uniform of white shirts and blue slacks. Meanwhile, students at James Lick, like 12-year-old Alison Seidman, Jesse Escobedo, and Natalia Mendoza (sitting), will most likely be wearing a casual tee shirt and jeans combo.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

duce gang activity because it ignores the underlying problems that give rise to youth gangs. They say students will continue to express their "colors" by hair-style, shoes, or other distinctions.

One parent I spoke with, who preferred not to give his name, sees the uniform movement as part of a disturbing trend. "Will the next step be to outlaw nose rings, long hair on boys, or tinted hair on girls?" he asked.

However, the parents who favor uniforms cite their inability to afford stylish clothing for their children. Caballero noted that many Everett and James Lick students come from low-income families. Uniforms, which run about \$150 for a complete set, cost a lot less than a pair of oversize jeans and a 49er jacket. Uniforms might also eliminate some of the conflict that families have when the parent is unable or unwilling to spend the money to buy what's "in."

Hepperly said James Lick intended to help out those families who were unable to afford uniforms, as they do now for physical education uniforms. She added that after the first year, there would be a system in place to provide uniforms previously worn by students to families in financial need.

But won't the students lose an important form of self-expression if forced to dress alike?

Caballero responds by saying that youth should be encouraged to express themselves through other methods: art and poetry, for example, rather than clothing, which only allows judgment of a person by his or her looks or wealth and not by what's within.

## It May Be Tee Shirts for James Lick

The students at Everett School were not allowed to express themselves at the ballot box, however.

At Everett, only the parents voted on whether to have uniforms. Caballero said the voting process was decided by a group of parents and students with the idea that the parents buy the clothes and "if the parents want it, the kids will wear it."

Hepperly, on the other hand, strongly believes in putting kids and adults "on an equal level" on the uniform issue. At

James Lick, the ballot sent home required the signature of both parent and student.

Leigh Escobedo, the parent of a seventh-grader at James Lick, agreed with Hepperly that it was important for students to vote their preferences. She called it a matter of "empowerment," teaching children in these important middle school years that they can have a say in matters that affect them.

Another difference between Everett and James Lick was that James Lick is voting on a uniform policy in general. No specific uniform is on the ballot.

If the uniform policy is approved by a majority at James Lick, Hepperly plans to form a small committee of parents and students to decide on the specific dress code. According to Hepperly, a number of students have already asked to sit on the committee. The outfits they'll get to choose from will range from a traditional-style uniform similar to that at Everett, to khaki pants with a white shirt, to a less traditional uniform consisting of jeans and a school tee shirt.

Parents who favor this last option are advocating a schoolwide, student-designed tee shirt, to be worn with a variety of bottoms, including jeans.

Escobedo, a member of this group, believes the tee shirt idea is a fair compromise, which addresses the parents' concerns while allowing the students to continue to dress in their chosen style.

But Caballero warns against it. She thinks tee shirts aren't enough to set apart outsiders. If other youth who are not students want to enter the school to cause trouble, they will be less inclined to spend money on a uniform, but could easily find a similar color tee shirt, she said.

And Escobedo, though sincere about her desire to promote a uniform that satisfies the needs of the administration while allowing the students some style and self-expression, has a second motive in advocating tee shirts: she works for Im-

pressions Unlimited, the company that is hoping to manufacture the shirts if they are voted in.

Her reasons for liking the tee shirts are professional as well as personal. "It's a good quality product, shows public school spirit, is less costly for parents, and can actually bring some funds into the school," she said.

More important, Escobedo stressed, the shirts are available to the schools at a low cost, allowing the school to sell them to students at a small markup, which will profit the school. The profit could then be used to provide shirts for those students unable to purchase them.

## What the Students Have to Say

As for the views of the students themselves, I spoke with many, all with different ideas. One seventh-grader at James Lick, Alison, didn't care if uniforms were required as long as she didn't have to wear a skirt. A uniform consisting of blue pants and a white shirt was okay with her. Hepperly indicated that girls would have a choice of wearing slacks or skirts.

Another seventh-grader told me she favored uniforms since she'd have "one less thing to think about in the morning."

On the opposite side was Natalia, who said she hated uniforms. When asked why, her response was that she did not like wearing the same thing every day. However, if forced to choose, she would pick a tee shirt and pants over the more traditional garb.

The boys I spoke with were generally not in favor of a dress code, but said that if it became the rule, a casual uniform was the only way to go.

In mid-May, the administrators at James Lick had still not collected enough votes to institute a change in policy, but the tally was running four to one in favor of uniforms.

No matter who wins the debate, it's likely the kids at James Lick will continue to have a uniform look. □



James Lick students Jesse Escobedo, Alison Seidman, and Natalia Mendoza (sitting) are voting on whether to wear uniforms next year. But their parents get an equal say in the decision.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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## Sea Breeze Owner Jim Yip Dies at 48

By Steve Steinberg

Noe Valley said goodbye last month to longtime neighborhood merchant Jim Yip. Jim, who was 48, owned Sea Breeze Cleaners on Castro Street between Jersey and 25th streets.

Jim died of lung cancer on May 4. He had been diagnosed with the disease in

1995, but had continued to work at his popular dry cleaning establishment until a few weeks before his death.

Jim leaves behind his wife, Lisa, and sons Jason, 26, Jeremy, 25, and Justin, 21.

A wake was held on Wednesday, May 8, at the Evergreen Mortuary on Geary Boulevard. More than 300 friends and family attended the celebration of Jim Yip's life. Among the mourners was J.P. Gillen, Little Italy owner and president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association.

"He was well loved and liked by many people," Gillen said. Gillen praised Jim's commitment to his family and his business, where the entire family worked.

"It's a great loss to the community," Gillen said. "He was always there, always smiled, always had a good word."

Other businesspeople in the neighborhood also reflected upon Jim's amiable nature. "Every time I saw him, he was friendly and pleasant," said Robert Roddick, who has a law practice on Castro Street near Sea Breeze.

Roddick's wife, Nancy, said Jim's smiling face was something she'd always remember. "He always had a smile no matter how crazy it got in the laundry," she said. "He was a quiet, gentle, really nice individual."

Jim Yip was also a great supporter of the *Noe Valley Voice*. He advertised his business in every issue of the *Voice* since

he began operating Sea Breeze. He always had good things to say about the paper and the Noe Valley community.

Jim and Lisa Yip have run Sea Breeze Cleaners since 1980. Before that, Jim owned another dry cleaning business on Divisadero Street with his father and brother.

Born in China, Jim came to this country in 1960. He came from a large family and had six sisters and four brothers. His 96-year-old father and 76-year-old mother still live in San Francisco.

He and Lisa were married in 1968. Although the Yips lived in the Richmond District, Jim loved Noe Valley, according to his wife. "He was always happy here," Lisa said. "He used to like to go to the Twin Peaks Bar [on Castro near 24th Street] for beer and coffee, and to talk sports with the guys in the bar."

Jim loved all kinds of sports, Lisa said, especially football, basketball, and horse racing. He also liked to go fishing.

Lisa said she and her sons have no plans to close Sea Breeze Cleaners. "We have to keep on going. Jim would want that."

She also wanted to thank her many Noe Valley friends and customers "for their love and support during this difficult period."

Lisa blamed cigarettes for her husband's death, and said she constantly tried



Many friends and neighbors attended a May 8 memorial gathering for Sea Breeze Cleaners owner Jim Yip, who died May 4.

to get him to quit smoking. But he refused to stop.

She hopes the manner of his death can serve as a lesson to others, particularly young people who smoke.

"If Jim's death could cause one person to quit smoking, then his illness and death would have served a purpose." □

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# POLICE BEAT

## Victim of Assault Shows Courage

By Officer Lois Perillo

As many of you know, a Noe Valley merchant was viciously assaulted on April 22. (See story on page 1 of this issue.) You may have seen the information letter from Capt. Al Casciato and the SFPD crime bulletin showing the suspect's likeness, which I distributed throughout the community.

The violent assault has been tagged an attempted murder by Sgt. Dave Herman, chief investigator on the case. He hopes to have the crime reenacted on the *Crime Stoppers* TV show to develop more leads.

According to the woman who was attacked, the support she's received from her customers and the Noe Valley community has been a big help in her ongoing recovery. In my humble view, her quick return to work is a remarkable testament to her spirit.

### Street Robberies Dip in April

The good news is there were only two reported robberies within my Noe Valley beat during April, down from five in March.

On April 3 at about 11 p.m., a man and a woman, both 30, were walking south on Sanchez toward Hill Street when they saw two 18-year-old men walking north on the opposite side of Sanchez.

The couple turned east on Hill, and the two men followed. Then one of the men brandished a handgun and yelled, "Give me your wallet." The couple ran, but the woman fell and threw down her purse.

The suspects retrieved the purse, chased the couple, and caught them before they reached Church Street. Again, one suspect demanded the man's wallet.

He removed a check from his wallet and gave it to the suspect, who then ran toward Church.

The other April robbery occurred on the 6th at about 4 a.m., and was reported in last month's column. There are no new developments in this case, which involved a 24th Street restaurant owner who was robbed while leaving his restaurant carrying the day's receipts.

### Junior Police Status

Recognition should go to two residents of Worth Street (cross street 22nd), whose keen observations and quick reporting led to the capture of a strongarm robber in Noe Valley.

On May 1, just after midnight, the two residents, who were inside their home, were drawn to look outside when they heard the constant noise of a car maneuvering. They saw a man having a hard time parking his car. They also saw a second man, who looked about 30, approach the car and try to give the driver parking instructions. When the first man exited his car, appearing intoxicated, the second man twisted the other man's arm, stole his wallet, and then ran away.

The witnesses phoned police and provided a suspect description, which resulted in officers Lynn Fa'Agata and Samuel Christ catching the alleged robber at Elizabeth and Castro streets after a foot chase. Both witnesses made an identification of

the suspect and gave written statements, which will be treated as evidence.

The suspect was charged with second-degree robbery, a felony. His bail was set at \$10,000, and he remains in custody awaiting trial.

### Super Sleuth & Deputy Beat Guy

Kudos to that 35-year-old guy who stepped into the fray, helping police capture a fleeing auto theft suspect April 30 around 9 p.m.

Also, a special thanks to the super sleuth who first noticed the suspect's odd behavior. The alert woman kept her eye on the man after she saw him tampering with several Harley Davidson motorcycles parked near Bell Market on 24th Street. She got the license plate number of the vehicle his cohorts were occupying, and phoned police.

Officers Mario Molina and Katherine Gaskill responded to the call and were met with resistance from a 27-year-old man, who was trying to loft a motorcycle into the bed of a pickup truck with the aid of an accomplice, who was pushing the vehicle.

The first suspect shoved Molina away and attempted to flee by climbing in the truck bed. Gaskill called for backup as Molina pulled the man from the truck, which then sped from the scene. The suspect broke away, running across the street and gaining the attention of the man I call "deputy beat guy."

This witness told me he was in front of the Real Food Company when he saw the officers attempting to restrain the suspect across the street. He watched as the suspect ran toward him. That's when our guy swung into action, literally.

"I grabbed him around the waist and sort of swung him to the ground," deputy beat guy told me. "Then I helped the officers cuff him and left...quickly." He departed so quickly, in fact, that the plainclothes officers who arrived to assist didn't even notice him!

Who was that masked man? I'm sworn to secrecy.

Meanwhile, the suspect, who had a pending case for cocaine possession and prior convictions for auto theft and burglary, was booked on attempted auto theft and battery on a police officer. (Two of Molina's fingers were broken by the suspect.) He remains in custody pending his court date.

Also, the getaway truck was found and towed the next day. It was held until Inspector Richard VanKoll of the Auto Detail had a chance to interview the owner.

Until next time, be safe and see you on patrol. □

*Officer Lois Perillo is the community police officer for the part of Noe Valley extending from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street. You can reach her by calling Mission Police Station at 558-5400.*



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### Looking for News in All the Rack Places

Finding a copy of *The Noe Valley Voice* near the end of the month can be nearly as tough as discovering where Waldo is. But aside from our regular free distribution points in stores, cafes, and other public places, we're trying to keep our news racks stocked until the next issue is almost ready to go to the printer.

We have three racks located in downtown Noe Valley: on Noe at 24th Street near Starbucks, on Castro at 24th Street near Out of Hand, and as pictured above, on 24th Street in front of Bell Market.

Other locations are on Church at Cesar Chavez in front of Crystal Market, and on Diamond at Chenery in front of Tyger's in Glen Park. We're also at 18th Street at Collingwood in front of Cala Foods, on Castro at 18th in front of Presto Photo, and on Castro at Market near Noah's Bagels.

Thanks for looking out for us, and thanks for reading.

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Photo by Beverly Thorp

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# That Thing On the Road May Be an Electric Car

By Steve Steinberg

With the price of gas going through the roof, wouldn't it be lovely if you could suddenly switch to some other fuel to power your car—and thumb your nose at those price-gouging gas stations as you drive by?

Well, that's what Noe Valley resident Oliver Strube-Callihan intends to do with his 1973 Volkswagen "Thing." He's converting the car's gasoline engine to electric, so he can "refuel" it simply by plugging it into a wall outlet.

Strube-Callihan, 28, lives with his wife, Jennifer, in an apartment at 27th and Church streets. He and his brother, Mark Strube, have been hard at work building the electric car in a nearby friend's garage.

Once the changeover is complete, they expect to have a very efficient vehicle that doesn't require much maintenance.

"The engine will not have as many moving parts as a gasoline engine," Strube-Callihan says. "It will be much simpler to operate." For example, he notes, electric engines have no carburetor or spark plugs, which means, of course, they require no tune-ups.

Replacing the old-style engine is a direct-current electric motor. The rest of the Thing—a 1970s Volkswagen model that looks like a World War II German army staff car—will operate pretty much like a regular car.

Strube-Callihan expects the total cost of the conversion to be about \$5,500.

Born in England to a German father and an English mother, Strube-Callihan spent 12 of his first 15 years living in Germany. He came to the United States in 1984 and has lived in Noe Valley on and off since 1992. He first became interested in electric cars through his studies at New College of California on Valencia Street, where he is majoring in international service and development, with a focus on Third World countries.

Always very concerned about the environment, he has concluded through his studies that "a lot of traditional development models have not taken the environment into consideration."

Thus, he says, it was a "natural transi-



What kind of thing is this? It's a former gas-eating 1973 VW Thing, transformed into a clean-powered electric car by Mark Strube and Oliver Strube-Callihan (right). Photo by Beverly Thorp

tion" for him to turn to renewable sources of energy. "Renewable energy has to be part of the solution to developing Third World industries and protecting the environment at the same time."

As part of his studies at New College, Strube-Callihan spent six months in Nepal last year, researching microhydropower, which as the term implies, is a scaled-down version of hydropower.

He found that it was possible to divert water in small amounts from streams to power generators and other pieces of equipment. This eliminated the need to burn fossil fuels, and because no dams had to be built, helped preserve the environment as well.

After Strube-Callihan returned to this country, it was another "natural transition" to become interested in electric cars and motors. The conversion of the Thing is actually his senior project at New College.

The biggest problem still facing the electric car industry, Strube-Callihan

notes, is designing a battery that can go long distances before having to recharge. His car, for instance, can run only 60 miles before needing to be plugged in. "It's meant for city driving and commuting to work."

Once his car runs out of "gas," he must hook it up to the wall for five to six hours before he can hit the road again. But Strube-Callihan stresses that if electric car owners want to spend more money, they can buy a recharger that will do the job in 25 minutes or less.

Before gasoline prices began climbing in April, Strube-Callihan estimated that a typical charge-up cost would be about the same as an average gas fill-up—but with no toll on the environment.

Although General Motors has announced plans to build and sell an electric car in California starting as early as this year—the GMEV1 will go for around

\$35,000—it will be a while before the general public rushes to turn in their gas-powered vehicles for electric models.

"At this point the car manufacturers are saying they can't produce a suitable car for consumers because of the limited range," Strube-Callihan says.

However, he adds, "All the technicalities are there to make an electric car, except the battery technology. And manufacturers are working nonstop around the world to perfect this technology, too."

Ideally, Strube-Callihan says, an electric car should be able to go 200 to 400 miles between charges.

As for his own plans, Strube-Callihan would like to continue converting gasoline cars to electric—as opposed to building them from scratch, as the car manufacturers plan to do.

He estimates that his current project will take him and his brother 1,000 hours to complete. But, he says, "that's just because we're going really slow this first time around." Professional converters can do it in a week or less, he says.

He had hoped to finish his project in time to participate in a May 4 electric car rally. The event, sponsored by the Electrical Vehicle Association and the American Lung Association, featured 30 electric cars driving across three Bay Area bridges. Unfortunately, some last-minute technical glitches prevented the Strube brothers from joining them.

Although disappointed about missing the rally, at press time Strube-Callihan was anticipating that his car would be up and running by the end of May.

So if you see a man in a strange-looking vintage German car gliding quietly around Noe Valley—and not emitting a single fume—it's probably Oliver Strube-Callihan doing his Thing. □

Strube-Callihan invites anyone who is interested in learning more about electric cars to call him at 826-6316.

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## SHORT TAKES

### A Jog Down Memory Lane

Noe Valley History Day takes place at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., on Saturday, June 1. And this year's event, sponsored by the Noe Valley Archives and spanning the years 1910-1960, promises to be a veritable circuit training for the mind.

Your eyes will get a workout as you follow the juggled objects of Jimbo the Clown, appearing at 2 p.m. An hour later, local folksinger Bruce Sherman will regale your ears with a variety of songs and musical instruments. And your nose and mouth can stay in shape by consuming refreshments and chatting with old-timers who might have once raced the cable car up the Castro Street Hill.

Finally, your brain will absorb a video and dozens of photographic images on display, many of which prove there was life in Noe Valley before Bud's Ice Cream. If you've never heard of Bud's Ice Cream, your brain really needs the exercise. Stop by the library between 2 and 5 p.m.!

### Prize Penmanship

Congratulations to Michelle Nguyen, a student in Elizabeth Sweeney's first-grade class at St. Philip School on Elizabeth Street. Michelle won the California State Printing Championship, in a contest jointly sponsored by Parker Pen and Zaner-Bloser, an Ohio-based publisher of handwriting texts.

Vicky Hearing, a spokesperson for



Michelle Nguyen, a first-grader at St. Philip School on Elizabeth Street, won the title of California State Printing Champion in a national handwriting contest.

Zaner-Bloser, notes that "despite high-tech communication devices, every business still depends on pens and papers."

In the handwriting contest, Michele competed against more than 90,000 students from around the country. She and teacher Sweeney each will receive a Parker pen; and Michele and St. Philip School will receive certificates of achievement.

Michele is still in the running for one of six National Grade Level Champion awards, which offer additional prizes, including a \$500 savings bond. The Grand National Champion will be selected from among the National Grade Level champions. Good luck, Michelle!

### A Woman of Vision

How does Islamic orthodoxy shape the role of women in Muslim culture? Noe Valley resident Jeanne Finley, an award-winning filmmaker and video director,

explores this question in her video *Conversations Across the Bosphorous*, featured this month in KCSM-TV's six-week series *Women of Vision*.

Finley's video culminates a year-long residency in Istanbul, and intertwines the narratives of two Muslim women, Gokcen and Mine. Gokcen, from an orthodox Islamic family, tells of taking off the veil after years of struggle. Mine, who emigrated to San Francisco a decade ago, reveals her discovery of her faith in a series of letters to the filmmaker.

Finley is an associate dean at the California College of Arts and Crafts. Her work has been presented at the San Francisco Film Festival, the Amsterdam Documentary Festival, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

*Conversations Across the Bosphorous* airs June 4 and again on June 7, from 8 to 9 p.m. on KCSF (Channel 60). For more information, call 574-6586.

### Randall Museum Alert

After an extensive investigation, the *Voice* has determined that there are entirely too many activities for kids at the Randall Museum this summer. We feel it is our civic duty to warn parents of this danger.

Dozens of programs actually encourage kids to build or make stuff. This means they could come home with puppets, masks, sculpture, toys, toolboxes, pottery, jewelry—not to mention stereo speakers and model trains. So much for spring cleaning!

And what about field trips, nature hikes, musical revues, magic shows, and shark videos? Imagine how much these activities could cut into your child's valuable television-watching time.

Lest museum workers ply you with even more information about beetles,

bookmaking, wax casting, photography, symphonies, and architecture, we suggest you avoid visiting the Randall Museum at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt near 14th Street) or calling 554-9600 (for regular classes) or 666-7044 (to apply for special summer day camp programs).

### Democratic Club at Library

As it gears up for the fall election, the Noe Valley Democratic Club has shifted its meeting place to the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. (near Castro).

Regular meetings have tentatively been set for the second Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 p.m.

Club secretary Mark Freeland says the upcoming June 12 meeting will focus on ironing out the club's rules and planning strategy for the Clinton-Gore reelection campaign.

He adds that those who'd like to review an advance copy of proposed changes to the club's bylaws should contact him at 285-9119 or call Dave Monks, club president, at 821-4087.

### A Beauty to Behold

Maybe you're walking the same route you've traversed a hundred times, and suddenly you're struck by the beauty of a particular place—a staircase, a garden, a path—and you remember why you call our city home.

San Francisco Beautiful, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating enhancing, and retaining the city's beauty, pays tribute to those individuals and groups responsible for our stunning venues and vistas by sponsoring an annual Beautification Awards program. They're now seeking nominations for worthy honorees.

*Continued on Page 14*

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# SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 13

Nominated sites can be any San Francisco locale with public access or visibility — private residences, schools, businesses, parks, gardens, etc. The awards committee will consider a site's design, environmental and inspirational effects, and recreational enhancement. It will also acknowledge specific projects, such as murals, lighting, conservation, promotional efforts, or graffiti reduction.

Nominations must include contact information for both the nominee and submitter, along with the address and description of the site and your reasons for the choice. The deadline is July 1. Send your choice to San Francisco Beautiful, 41 Sutter St., Suite 709, San Francisco, CA 94104, or fax it to 421-4037. For details, call 421-2608.

Winners will be feted at San Francisco Beautiful's annual Beautification Awards Dinner, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 8 at the Stanford Court Hotel.

## The Greening of James Lick

Several years ago James Lick Middle School got together with some Noe Valley neighbors to plant trees around the school located at Noe and Clipper. Since then, a few of the trees have died and several more are ailing.

Clipper Street resident Tom Graves has contacted the Friends of the Urban Forest, who have offered to plant replacement trees as needed, and Graves has found an irrigation system that will make watering easier.

Working with Friends of Noe Valley, Graves is also trying to create a pool of volunteers, so that teams of two to three volunteers need only water once every couple of months. If you would like to volunteer, call Janet Jacobs at 648-7671.

Meanwhile, Friends of Noe Valley also reports that volunteers are needed to help James Lick Middle School students tend their garden plots located behind the Noe Valley — Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. Call Susan Gold at 695-5675 or Molly O'Malley at 285-7584 if you'd like to be a gardener mentor.

## Calling All Craftswomen

Applications are now available for the 1996 Celebration of Craftswomen, the largest juried women's crafts fair in the United States, presented annually by the San Francisco Women's Building.

This year's celebration takes place the weekends of Dec. 7–8 and Dec. 14–15 at Fort Mason Center. The deadline for applications is June 15.

All applications are reviewed by a jury, and work is judged on quality and originality. Women of diverse ethnic, social, and sexual backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. Special booths are available for low-income artists.

Now in its 18th year, the Celebration of Craftswomen attracted more than 20,000 crafts collectors and holiday shoppers in 1995. Showcasing the artistry of 280 of the nation's most talented craftswomen, the fair aims to promote visibility and economic clout for women artists from a range of cultural backgrounds.

To obtain an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Celebration of Craftswomen, San Francisco Women's Building, 3543 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Phone: 361-0700.

## Safe Housecleaning Tips

Hang onto your mops—the City of San Francisco has published a booklet on housecleaning called *Clean It! Safer Housecleaning Methods That Really Work!* It is available free to residents as part of the city's campaign to prevent water pollution and improper disposal of potentially hazardous garbage.

"We know that traditional brochures do not get the job done when it comes to changing consumer behavior," says Paula Kehoe, program coordinator for the city's Water Pollution Prevention Program. "That's why we designed a book that people will keep and continue to use."

The 30-page publication is actually a set of 15 sturdy, bookmark-sized "pages" fastened together at one corner, which can be opened like a fan. The booklet is organized into different categories for cleaning — from floors and furniture to ovens and windows — and also contains waste disposal specifics on what can and can't go in the garbage or down the drain.

The cleaning methods were tested by professional "low-toxic" housecleaners. Suggested products include a baking soda all-purpose cleaner, vinegar for washing windows, and lemons for cutting grease.

"Not only does toothpaste polish silver," notes San Francisco's chief administrative officer, William Lee, "it's safer for the environment, and you don't have to worry if your kids eat it."

*Clean It!* is the third in a series of how-to guides published by the city. The other books are *Fix It: A Quick Guide to Car Repair for the Do-It-Yourselfer* and *Grow It: The Less Toxic Garden*, which shows how to control pests without pesticides.

For a free copy of any of these publications, call 695-7375.

## Spiff Up Your City Park

The Friends of Recreation and Parks, a private nonprofit organization, is pleased to announce its first-ever Neighborhood Park Grant for San Francisco community groups interested in improving their neighborhood parks.

The grant program, sponsored by Lambda-Alpha Land Economics Society and the Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization, will award up to \$1,000 to the group with the most innovative and pressing proposal for local park improvements.

Ideas should incorporate youth and include a collaborative effort with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Improvements may be physical restorations, special programs, or interpretive displays.

For a proposal form, call the Friends of Recreation and Parks office at 750-5110. Completed proposals should be directed to: Neighborhood Park Grant, Friends of Recreation and Parks, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94117. The deadline to apply is June 30.

## Read Tall Tales to See Giants

Free Giants tickets are among the prizes offered during a summer reading program at all San Francisco Public Library branches, including the New Main, which now has a children's center larger than any of the city's 26 branch libraries.

The reading program runs from June 15 to Aug. 10. Last year, 8,000 children ages 13 or younger registered for the program, and 5,000 won prizes. Preschoolers can participate by having books read to them, and teens can volunteer to help younger readers get started, if they sign up for the Kid Power program.

Anyone who reads eight books will win Giants tickets. Other prizes include

paperback books, as well as tickets to the Laserium, Bay Area Discovery Museum, and the Morrison Planetarium at the California Academy of Sciences.

In addition, special events and programs, ranging from children's concerts to magic shows, will liven up summer days at all city libraries.

For details, contact Carol Small, the children's librarian at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street, at 695-5095.

## Eat Out for a Good Cause

Over 100 of San Francisco's top restaurants are participating in Dining Out for Life, a fundraising campaign to benefit Visual Aid, a program that provides grants and services to artists with AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses.

If you would like to contribute, all you have to do is eat out at a participating restaurant on Thursday, June 13, and a portion of your bill will be donated to Visual Aid.

Participating Noe Valley restaurants include Firefly, 4288 24th St. (821-7652), and Valentine's Cafe, 1793 Church St. (285-2257), as well as Rory's Twisted Scoop ice cream store at the corner of 24th and Castro (648-2837).

For a faxed list of all 100 restaurants, call 1-800-903-5242. For information about Visual Aid, call 777-8242. And don't forget to mention Dining Out for Life when you make your reservations!

## Create a Habitat

If you can hammer a nail, and feel like helping to build a house, Habitat for Humanity San Francisco is looking for you. The nonprofit, affordable housing organization is seeking skilled and unskilled volunteers to assist in the renovation of a house in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. This is Habitat's first houselift in that part of the city.

The renovation will take place on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the spring and summer. To sign up for a shift, call 750-4780.

## Welcome the Artaria Quartet

Noe Valley Chamber Music, the series of monthly recitals held on Sunday afternoons at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., will play host to the highly acclaimed Artaria Quartet, thanks to a \$15,000 matching grant provided by the Ensemble Residency Program of Chamber Music America of New York City.

One of only four ensembles in the country to receive this grant, Artaria is a string quartet specializing in music from the early classical era, played on period instruments.

Beginning in September of 1997, the Artaria Quartet will establish residency with Noe Valley Chamber Music for three years, during which time, in addition to regular concerts, it will perform lectures and demonstrations in schools, concerts for seniors, and master classes for local community groups. Tentative plans also call for the group to collaborate with the School of the Arts, Community Music Center, and ArtWorks, a group that places musicians and artists in senior centers.

Says Karen Heather, director of the Chamber Music Series, "We are tremendously excited by this recognition, but it is a challenge. It is our job now to raise the matching funds from local foundations and private donors. This is a wonderful opportunity for supporters of the arts to help us bring the chamber music experience outside the concert hall and into the community."

To give her and the quartet a hand, call the Ministry at 282-2317.

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# SHORT TAKES

## Soccer Camp for Kids

The San Francisco Vikings Soccer Club will offer a summer camp for children 5 to 16, at Golden Gate Park's Beach Chalet soccer field. The program offers soccer for beginners as well as more competitive players, and is staffed by coaches from all over the world.

Camp sessions run weekly starting July 29, Aug. 5, Aug. 12, and Aug. 19. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with extended care until 6 p.m. The cost is \$130 per child per week, and an additional \$20 per week for extended care. Sibling discounts are available.

The league will also hold registration for the fall 1996 season on Saturdays June 1 and June 8. All San Francisco children, girls or boys 5 to 18, are welcome to sign up for "micro-soccer" (ages 5 to 7), recreational teams, and competitive teams that play year-round. Games start after Labor Day and are held on Saturdays for about eight weeks.

For both summer and fall applications, call 753-3111. The deadline for summer camp is July 15, but don't wait too long. Spaces fill up fast.

## Migden's Welcome Mat

State Assemblywoman Carole Migden, who won a special election on March 26 to replace Speaker Emeritus Willie Brown, has opened her district office at 1700 California St., Suite 340 (at Van Ness).

Staff, interns, and volunteers will be



The Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street got a big lift on Saturday, April 27, when more than 90 neighbors and volunteers from Zephyr Real Estate and Charles Schwab joined Christmas in April to paint and repair the building, inside and out. Photo by Beverly Thorp

available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., to assist with the tracking of state legislation and handle constituents' inquiries on state agencies and programs. Those include the Department of Motor Vehicles, Medi-Cal, the Franchise Tax Board, and issues relating to AIDS, insurance claims, parks, taxes, housing, and public education and safety.

For further information, call 557-0784 or send e-mail to [carole.migden@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:carole.migden@assembly.ca.gov) or [cmigden@aol.com](mailto:cmigden@aol.com).

## Ministry Unwraps Christmas

On Saturday, April 27, more than 90 corporate employees, friends, and Noe Valley residents took part in the Christmas in April project at the Noe Valley Ministry, the church and community cen-

ter housing 30 programs and activities at 1021 Sanchez St.

Volunteers helped renovate five different areas of the 1886 redwood English Gothic building, working diligently to paint, clean, remove debris, and perform the carpentry work needed for ongoing roof repairs at the Ministry.

Two key corporations that pitched in with local volunteers were Zephyr Real Estate and Charles Schwab, which contributed nearly 50 employees and \$5,000 in financial assistance.

"The Schwab employees did amazing work in transforming the entire downstairs of the facility. The local residents who came to the center on Sunday were in awe," said Dawn Summers, a member of the Noe Valley Ministry's staff and a chief organizer of the project.

The Ministry has been able to engage

not only the participation of the national Christmas in April, but also the help of the San Francisco Foundation, through a congregation-based outreach effort known as the FAITHS Initiative, she said.

Summers added that these two agencies would continue to work with the Ministry to ensure that the renovation is completed. But if local residents would like to join the team, they should call the church at 282-2317.

## Summer Art Workshops

No matter what your age, there's an art class for you this summer at the Sharon Art Studio, located next to the Children's Playground in Golden Gate Park.

A program of the city's Recreation and Park Department, the studio offers low-cost classes and one-day workshops in drawing, watercolor painting, stained and fused glass, jewelry, and ceramics.

A special highlight of the program, the teen Art in the Park day camp for youth ages 11 to 15, will explore working with clay, stained glass, fused glass, prints, polymer clay, and metal.

Students can sign up for any of three sessions: July 8 to July 18, July 22 to Aug. 8, and Aug. 12 to Aug. 22. Hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Fees are \$105 for two weeks and \$155 for three weeks. Some scholarships are available.

At press time, the *Voice* learned that registration for the Art in the Park camp was already under way. To find out if there are slots still available, call Les at 666-7044.

Registration for all other summer classes takes place June 8 at 10 a.m. at the studio. For more detailed class and schedule information, call 753-7004.



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## SHORTS

### Arthritis Class

The Northern California chapter of the Arthritis Foundation will continue a Noe Valley exercise class it launched in April and May (National Arthritis Month).

A new eight-week program, People with Arthritis Can Exercise (PACE), will start June 18. Instructor Dawn Summers, who is certified by the Arthritis Foundation, points out that people with any kind of arthritis or chronic pain, including fibromyalgia, are welcome to participate.

The course uses gentle exercises to help increase joint flexibility and range of motion. Since Summers is also an expert yoga teacher, she has incorporated yoga breathing and meditation techniques into the routines.

The class runs Tuesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., and is held at the Noe Valley Ministry at Sanchez and 23rd Street.

The cost of the eight-week series is \$40, and scholarships are available. For information, call Summers at 285-1831 or the Arthritis Foundation at 673-6882.

### Democratic Bounty Hunting

Those pesky Democrats think that they can just buy votes!

Well, not exactly. The San Francisco Democratic Party, in conjunction with the California Democratic Party's 1996 Voter Registration Bounty Program, will pay cash to any individual or organization that brings in new registered voters between now and the November election.

Participants receive 75 cents for every new registered Democrat with a phone number, and 50 cents for every new reg-

istered Democrat without a phone.

Upon turning in their special registration cards, bounty hunters get a weekly paycheck.

To sign up for the project, individuals and groups can call 487-1317. Voter registration forms must be picked up and turned in at the San Francisco Democratic Party headquarters (100 McAllister St., Suite 350) on Wednesdays between 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, call 626-1161.

### Reading Tree Bears Fruit

Beginning June 3, Cover to Cover Booksellers will sprout its second annual Growing Readers Project. By donating books purchased in the store, customers can help more than 150 disadvantaged children in the Mission and Tenderloin districts.

Paper "apple blossoms," printed with the name and age of a child, will adorn a tree that will be placed in Cover to Cover's storefront window at 3910 24th St.

When a customer picks a blossom and purchases a book for a child, Cover to Cover will exchange the flower for a pa-

per apple printed with the donor's name. Anonymous donations are accepted as well, and customers may participate by phone if they are unable to visit the store.

Recipients in this year's project are kids enrolled at the Cross Cultural Family Center at 259 Turk St. and at Jamestown Community Center, an educational and athletic program operating out of two local public schools. Last year nearly 300 books were donated to children from the Bernal Heights Community Center and Grupo de la Comida refugee center.

According to store owner Nicky Salan, Cover to Cover is not the first bookstore to start a donation program. Charlotte's Web in San Francisco and Book Passage in Corte Madera sponsor similar programs, usually during December.

"In the winter, kids are already reading at school," said Salan. "We think it's a good idea to keep them reading in the summer months."

To donate a book, call Cover to Cover at 282-8080. The Growing Readers Project will continue through June 30.

*This month's Short Takes were written by Bill Yard, Jane Underwood, Sally Smith, and Jeff Doleman.*

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## AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

### Children for Lunch

By Ruhama Veltfort

"Aunt Hermione, I'm at my wits' end! Do you have any recipes for something that children would like?"

"Goodness gracious, dear, whatever for?" Aunt Hermione looked truly astonished.

"We're having some for lunch, and—"

She had a wicked grin. "I'd suggest boiled, of course! Unless you like them better roasted!"

"Oh, Auntie, don't be silly. You know perfectly well what I mean."

"Well, I rather hoped I had misunderstood you," she frowned. "I'm not sure I'm up to company of that sort, particularly the way children are reared—or I should say, *not* reared—these days. Their parents have forgotten what the word manners means. Kids are allowed to be rude and obnoxious and throw a tantrum over the smallest—"

She was starting to rant, and I didn't have time for that now.

"Excuse me, Auntie, but I really must come up with something. My old friend from college, Pru, just called an hour ago. She's in town with her three children, on her way to Los Angeles and Disneyland, and I've invited them for lunch tomorrow."

Aunt Hermione looked thunder-struck. "*THREE* children? I thought there was an overpopulation crisis. Why on earth are they coming here?"

"Aunt Hermione! I was a bridesmaid at Pru's wedding 10 years ago, and she's been living in Boston, and I've never seen her babies. Tudor is 6, Ashdon is 5, and little Callahan is just 2."

Aunt Hermione shook her head. "What peculiar names. And all little boys, too—they're the absolute worst."

"Oh no, Auntie," I protested. "They're girls."

"With names like that? And I thought it was bad in the '60s, with people naming their children Mushroom and Sunlight. At least they were creative."

I sighed. "Well, they're coming for lunch whether you like their names or not. And I would like to make something we can all enjoy."

She gazed at me levelly. "Why make a fuss? They ought to be trained to eat what is on their plates without complaining," she said patiently. "It might be good for their characters not to have their every whim catered to. If your friend is anything at all like the new mothers I see in this neighborhood, it will be quite a new experience."

Aunt Hermione's views on modern child-rearing practices were well known to me. Every time she came back from an excursion to 24th Street, she had a new complaint about being shouted down by a 3-year-old in Holey Bagel, or nearly run down in the aisles of Bell Market by a tiny monster pushing a shopping cart.

I knew she missed the Noe Valley Community Store—so did I!—but she didn't miss the preschoolers who had drooled over the salad bin and squeezed the fruit with their filthy fingers.

"Now that you mention it," she said, "I think I'll plan to go out for lunch. I've been wanting to try the new menu at Panos."

"Oh, come on, Auntie! Be a sport.

What if I made quesadillas? My kids used to love them," I mused. "And they're easy to make."

"I suppose you'll need all the help you can get," she sniffed. "And I *do* love Mexican food.... I know, I'll make my salsa verde," she brightened. "It's almost as good as what we used to get at Aunt Mary's on 16th Street, before it closed last year."

Aunt Hermione seemed to have entirely rebounded from her child-induced funk. But I frowned. "Well, I suppose we could serve the salsa on the side, and the adults could have it...and we could ask the kids if they want tomatoes or avocados or..."

"Oh, horsefeathers! That's just the problem. Parents today are always asking the children about everything, and the poor dears don't know, and then everyone's got to sit around while they try to make up their minds, and then they don't even like what they've asked for."

She had a point.

"Well, then," I offered. "Let's make some plain quesadillas, and some with different fillings. Pru can just serve them what they like. And we'll make a big green salad, too."

As it turned out, Pru's kids were adorable, and even Aunt Hermione agreed they were very well behaved. Tudor tried the salsa, and all of them ate their salad. Aunt Hermione surprised us too, with an assortment of cookies from Noe Valley Bakery. □

#### Quesadillas

##### Ingredients:

12 flour tortillas  
1 pound jack cheese  
3 to 4 tablespoons butter

##### Optional:

Sliced tomatoes  
Slice green onions  
Sliced avocado  
Sliced black olives

Make "sandwiches" using two flour tortillas, about 3 ounces cheese, and any of the "options." Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet and fry one quesadilla at a time, turning once. Add butter as needed for each new quesadilla. Quesadillas can be kept warm in the oven. Cut each into quarters or, for small children, sixths. *Makes 6 quesadillas.*

#### Salsa Verde

##### Ingredients:

1/2 cup Parrot Brand Tomatillo Salsa Dip  
1 fresh serrano or jalapeño chile pepper, sliced  
1 clove garlic, peeled and cut up  
1 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/2 lime

Put all ingredients, except for 1/2 cup of the cilantro and the lime, in blender or food processor and pulse, then blend at high speed. Put mixture in a bowl and squeeze in the juice from the lime and stir in the reserved chopped cilantro.

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**Looking Down Valley Street** on a clear April afternoon from near the top of the steps, our photographer pauses to contemplate a quiet refuge in upper Noe Valley.... Hey, wait a minute. Couldn't DPW get some sort of project going here? Photo by Pamela Gerard



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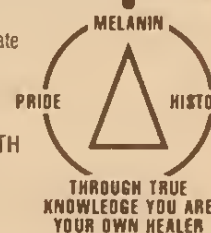
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### Don't Judge a House by Its Cover

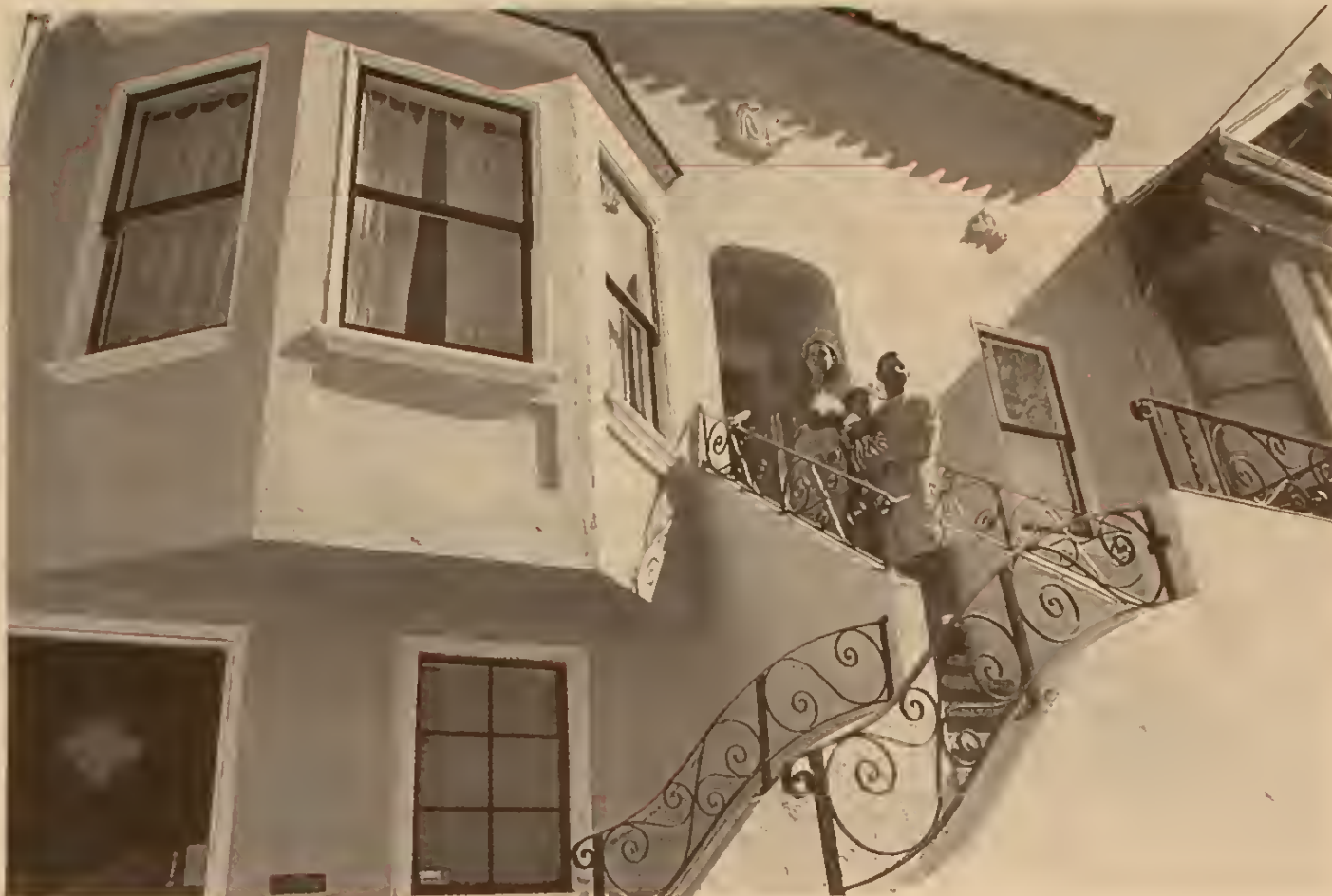
By Tim Kelley

I suppose it happens in bookstores, too. The bright dust jacket falls off a book—or is thrown away by some earnest employee who thinks the cover's too lurid or too dated—and the book just sits there, somber and unread. Meanwhile, its gaudier mates fly off the shelf, telling and retelling their stories.

So it goes with houses, even Victorians. Everyone wants to know the stories behind the colorful facades. But while that elegant drag may signify that a house has a history, a plain front does not necessarily mean it has none. It doesn't even mean the house is not a Victorian.

Take the case of 4242 24th St., the new home of the Williams family. When Paula and Mark Williams, and their 16-month-old daughter, Charlotte, were moving here from Southern California, everyone told them that Noe Valley was the best place to live in San Francisco. (Even in Venice Beach, some truths prevail.)

But Paula says they searched quite a while before noticing the house in the middle of the block between Diamond and Douglass. It was a plain stucco-fronted building whose greatest physical attraction was its location. Although there was a bay window peeking from beneath the stucco—the vestige of a



Paula and Mark Williams, and daughter Charlotte, now know the real story behind their new house at 4242 24th St. Though they originally thought it was from the early 1900s, it turns out it was the first house on the block, built around 1880. Photo by Tom Wachs

once more noble profile, like John Barrymore in his later days—the house was no Queen Anne. The realtor said it had been built around 1909.

After moving in last October, Paula decided to surprise her husband by having the history of their new home researched. She presented Mark with the research report on his birthday in April.

As the story of the house unfolded, the 1909 date fell further and further into the round file of a realtor's fiction. Instead of a faceless stranger, the house emerged as a colorful pioneer, built at least 30 years earlier.

Old directories established that by 1880 George McCahon, a house and sign painter, was living on the "north side of 24th, between Diamond and Douglass." No street number was used at the time for one simple reason: it was the only house on the block.

Old maps confirmed that Paula and Mark Williams' new home was indeed the house into which George and Mary McCahon had moved, complete with their own 16-month-old daughter, Lizzie, 126 years previously.

Like the Williamses, the McCahons also had been new to the city when they

moved in. No doubt some thoughtful soul had told them that Noe Valley was the best place to live in San Francisco.

They took that advice seriously, living in the house for 50 years and raising two daughters there.

By the turn of the century, the McCahons had built an addition at the rear of the house. They were also responsible for adding the garage downstairs, done by raising the house a bit, in that standard genuflection that Victorian houses have made to the automobile

*Continued on Page 20*

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## House History

Continued from Page 19

age. It was a subsequent owner who embalmed the facade in stucco.

When Lizzie McCahon married, she and her new husband, George Greenwood, lived in the house with her parents. Eventually, Lizzie's son, George Jr., spent his childhood in the same house his mother had grown up in.

As striking as the parallels are between the McCahons and the Williamses, history never repeats itself perfectly.

In 1931, Lizzie (by now Elizabeth) McCahon sold her childhood home to James Cline, a motorman for Muni. Cline worked the old Number 11 line, a downtown trolley that terminated at 24th and Hoffman Avenue.

Cline's commute to work on the 11-Hoffman must have been a pleasant stroll from his house—just two blocks up 24th Street.

Today, new homeowner Mark Williams, who works in advertising, navigates 43 stop signs and miles of rush-hour traffic to get to and from his office in Mill Valley.

The old windmill and well in the back yard that supplied the McCahons with water are gone now. So is the Green Valley Dairy, which pastured its cattle in the field across 24th Street.

The house that once stood alone on the block has neighbors two inches to each side. And Paula Williams runs her thriving children's clothing design business out of their home.

But to Paula, the newly discovered bond with the McCahons is more tangible than any of those other things.

"I mean," she says, "they lived in our rooms, they cooked in our kitchen, they raised their kids here. I love knowing that we're the next family. Good things have happened here."

Good things certainly have happened here. But unless we learn to browse all the books on our brimming shelves, those good things could be forgotten. □

Tim Kelley is a house historian mining the secrets of Noe Valley. If you have a house to explore, you can call him at 337-5824.



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with Susan Olk and Paul Holzman

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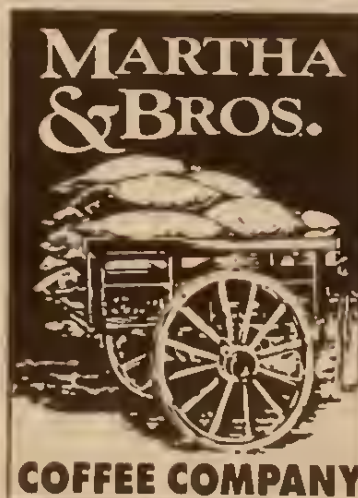
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# Noe Valley Has a Home On the Web

By Loren J. Bialik

Thanks to 24th Street resident Cliff Lundberg, people in Moscow, Sydney, New York, and just about any other place in the world can visit Noe Valley without stepping foot out of their home or office.

That's because Noe Valley now has its own "home page," or web site, on the World Wide Web. The only ticket you need is a computer with a modem and an Internet service provider. Welcome to the global community!

Fifty-year-old Lundberg, who drives a cab when he's not surfin' the Net, has a philosophy degree from San Francisco State University. But he's been a computer hobbyist for the past 12 years, having taught himself the ins and outs of the digital world.

"I got involved on the Internet because I had a scientific article on biology that I wanted published. I posted it on the *Internet Science Journal*, people read it and started giving me feedback," he says.

Last January, while glued to the computer, checking out different web sites, Lundberg decided it would be fun to set up his own home page.

A home page, for those of you unfamiliar with the Internet, is usually a graphic and text advertisement, or a description of a person, place, business, or product. Anyone can have a home page about anything. Bank of America has a web site. So does the White House. And web sites can be "linked" (connected) to other web sites by a click of the cursor.

Lundberg didn't want to have a vanity page—one that was only about him personally, as many home pages are. So instead he decided "to set up a home page for Noe Valley, where I've lived for the past 25 years."

The Noe Valley home page that he cre-



Twenty-fourth Street cab driver Cliff Lundberg is webmaster for Noe Valley's home page on the Internet, which lists 282 Noe Valley businesses free of charge. Photo by Tom Wochs

ated provides a free listing of 282 Noe Valley businesses and organizations, sorted alphabetically and by category.

The site also doubles as an electronic resumé for Lundberg, who would like to secure graphics work designing and setting up web pages for others.

So far, his register indicates that about 10 people a day are looking at the Noe Valley home page, some from as far away as Germany. This isn't even close to the thousands of "hits" per day that some popular sites receive, but it's a start, Lundberg says.

"Ultimately, I would like to have an online magazine, a collection of esoteric articles. It would be a place where writers could be read and artists seen," he adds.

Lundberg says it was fairly easy to design his home page. A variety of software tools are available for this. He used Windows Notepad and the Internet browsers Netscape and Mosaic.

How does one hook up to the Noe Valley home page?

Internet access is free at the public library, including our own Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St. All you have to do is sit down at the computer terminal, go to the main menu, and when you see your six options, choose number 4 and

then hit return. After a few seconds—sometimes minutes if the Internet connection is busy—the screen will take you to the World Wide Web. Press "G" for go, then type <http://www.noevalley.com> exactly as you see it here.

If all goes well, the Noe Valley home page should fill the screen. Across the top, you will see the alphabet. Pick a letter, hit return, and you will be given a listing of all the Noe Valley businesses whose names start with that letter.

Or you can press the down arrow on your keyboard until you come to a specific category such as "Dining." Hit return and you'll get a list of restaurants in the neighborhood. To go back to the start of the Noe Valley home page, press the left arrow key.

And there's more. The down arrow will also lead you to a separate listing for the *Noe Valley Voice*, where you can hit return and automatically be taken to the *Voice's* own web site. (This site was not created by Lundberg, but by co-publish-

ers Jack Tipple and Sally Smith. Lundberg merely set up a link to the *Voice* on his Noe Valley page.) The *Voice* page, which you can also reach independently by typing <http://www.noevalleyvoice.com>, gives a description of the paper and a short history of Noe Valley.

To leave the *Voice* site, type Q for quit, then Y for yes, and you're back at the main menu of Lundberg's Noe Valley home page.

Readers should note that the Internet connection at branch libraries is currently "text-only," but a limited number of computers at the Main Library do include graphics. It's worth a trip to the Civic Center.

If you have a home or office computer and modem, you can connect for free to the library's online "card" catalog and Internet server (text-only) by dialing 557-4450. Set your computer communications software to emulate a VT100 terminal, 8 data bits, N parity, 1 stop bit, and full duplex. The library runs at 1200 to 9600 baud.

If none of this makes sense to you, or the connection doesn't work, dial 557-4575 for library technical support.

If you would like to learn more about computers or the Internet, Lundberg recommends the knowledgeable people at @eon, a Noe Valley computer education and service center at 1326 Castro St. Call @eon at 642-9697 to learn about web site design or to sign up for Macintosh computer classes.

Lundberg is also willing to help anyone who wants to set up a home page. In fact, he says he will provide a free basic page for all businesses and organizations who would like one. He can be reached at 648-0208, or you can leave e-mail for him at [cliff@noevalley.com](mailto:cliff@noevalley.com). □



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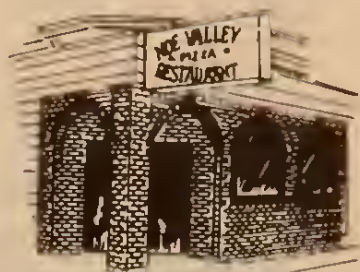
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# JUNE

**JUNE 1:** The Noe Valley Ministry hosts a JEWELRY REPAIR WORKSHOP to benefit the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series. 9:30–11:30 am. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**JUNE 1:** Community Music Center presents a year-end CDNCERT by elementary, middle, and high school students. 11 am. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

**JUNE 1:** Build and furnish a one-room DOLLHOUSE in a class taught by Julie Dodd Teitzlaff at the Randall Museum. 1 pm. 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

**JUNE 1:** The Noe Valley Library's celebration of Noe Valley HISTORY DAY, 1910–1960, features a photography exhibit, music by Bruce Sherman, and juggling by Jimbo the Clown. 2–5 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 1:** Southern Exposure's "Luscious" BENEFIT promises performance art, music, a silent auction, food and drink. 6:30–11 pm. Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St. 863-2141.

**JUNE 1:** Students in the James Lick School band perform a CONCERT of symphonic, folk, and jazz/pop music. 7 pm. 1220 Noe St. 759-8822.

**JUNE 1:** The Noe Valley MUSIC Series at the Noe Valley Ministry hosts MUSIC by bassist Michael Manring and mandolin player Radim Zenkl. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**JUNE 1 & 2:** The second annual OPEN GARDEN weekend features self-guided tours throughout the city. Call (510) 526-2788 for maps and info.

**JUNE 1–9:** The new Main Library showcases the work of over 50 book artists, calligraphers, bookbinders, and printers in "Bay Sampler: A BOOK ARTS Celebration." Mon., 9 am–6 pm; Tues.–Thurs., 10 am–8 pm; Fri., 11 am–5 pm; Sat., 9 am–5 pm; Sun., noon–5 pm. Sixth floor atrium gallery. 557-4565.

**JUNE 1 & 18:** The San Francisco SPCA offers VOLUNTEER orientation for cat and dog adoption counselors. 5–7 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3096.

**JUNE 1–30:** Brava! for Women in the Arts presents Cherrie Moraga's new PLAY *Watsonville*. Wed.–Sun., 8 pm. Brava Theater, 2789 24th St. 487-5401.

**JUNE 1–JULY 20:** Japanese ARTIST Yukinori Yanagi exhibits an installation, "Field Work on Alcatraz." Tues.–Sat., noon–6 pm. Capp Street Project, 525 Second St. 495-7101.

**JUNE 1–SEPT. 2:** The San Francisco Zoo presents Antoine LeBlanc, a rare blue-eyed WHITE ALLIGATOR on loan from New Orleans' Audubon Zoo. 1 Zoo Road. 753-7174.

**JUNE 2:** The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series hosts the U.C. Davis Contemporary Music Players in a CDNCERT featuring a string quartet by Roger Sessions, Debussy's cello sonata, and premieres of works by Josh Skaller, Benjamin Morss, and Louis Karchin. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**JUNE 3:** The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore holds a BOOKSIGNING by John Katz, author of *The Fathers' Club*. 1 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**JUNE 3–28:** The Diamond Senior Center offers free WATERCOLOR CLASSES every Mon., Tues., and Fri. at 9 am. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.



Five femmes fatales known as the Screaming Divas perform "a cappella madness" June 7–8 and 13–15 in the Noh Theatre at Project Artaud.

**JUNE 4:** The San Francisco Recycling Program hosts a VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. Call 554-6193 for info.

**JUNE 4:** Mission Branch Library offers a discussion for middle-schoolers on "How to Find a Job." 3:30 pm. 3359 24th St. 695-5090.

**JUNE 4:** Dr. Betty Carmack moderates a free PET LOSS Support Group for grieving owners. 7:30–9 pm. San Francisco SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3000.

**JUNE 4:** Glen Park Creative Arts After School Program presents a CHILDREN'S THEATER performance of "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." 7:30 pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

**JUNE 4, 11 & 21:** The Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 5:** Project Inform hosts an introductory town meeting on HIV TREATMENT OPTIONS. 6:30–8 pm. 1965 Market St., Suite 220. 558-8669.

**JUNE 5:** The Mandala FDLK DANCE Center celebrates its 25th anniversary at the Slavonic Cultural Center. 8:30 pm–midnight. 60 Onondaga Ave. 648-8489.

**JUNE 5, 12 & 22:** Parents are invited to bring their babies and toddlers to the LAPSITS at the Noe Valley Library. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 6–28:** The Shorebird Nature Center in Berkeley trains VOLUNTEERS to teach ecology to elementary school children. Call (510) 814-0527.

**JUNE 7:** Natural Resources hosts a LECTURE by author Elizabeth Davis on "Women's Body Wisdom: Discover What It Means to Have a Rich Evolving Sexuality Throughout a Lifetime." 7–9 pm. Women's Building, Audre Lorde Room, 3543 18th St. 550-2611.

**JUNE 7:** Project Bandaloop demonstrates "Entry," and the Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians perform "Refugee: The Wait" at "In the Street," a STREET THEATER festival. 8 pm outside The Lab, 16th & Capp. 905-5958.

**JUNE 7:** Jeff Mackler speaks about "The Situation in CUBA Today." 8 pm. Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 Cesar Chavez St. 821-0458

**JUNE 7 & 8:** Urs Leonhardt Steiner conducts the COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER Orchestra in a program featuring Bertioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. 8 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**JUNE 7–15:** The SCREAMING DIVAS present an interactive musical review. Thurs.–Sat., 8:30 pm. Project Artaud, 2840 Mariposa St. (510) 865-5969.

**JUNE 8:** Children's Day School's SHOWCASE OF THE ARTS offers artwork, food, and game booths. 9:30 am–1:30 pm. 333 Dolores St. 861-5432.

**JUNE 9:** The San Francisco SPCA's Animal Wingding '96 includes a street fair, a cat show, and an animal parade. 10 am–6 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3096.

**JUNE 9:** Celebrate Jerusalem 3000 and ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY at "Jerusalem in the Gardens." Noon–5 pm. Yerba Buena Gardens. 957-1551.

**JUNE 9:** Community Music Center presents a RECITAL by pianist Diana Pacini featuring works by Scriabin, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**JUNE 9:** The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

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# CALENDAR

**JUNE 10:** The Diamond Senior Center's BIRTHDAY PARTY and "Jumping in June" dance begins at noon. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

**JUNE 10-14:** The Recreation and Park Dept. offers a senior citizens GET-AWAY to Camp Mather near Yosemite. For info, call 666-7205 or 666-7015.

**JUNE 11:** POETS Jeanne Powell and Adela Najarro read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

**JUNE 12:** A planning meeting of the Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB will be held at 7 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 821-4087.

**JUNE 12:** AUTHOR Peter Wiley discusses *A Free Library in This City: An Illustrated History of the San Francisco Public Library*. 7 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**JUNE 13:** Radical Women's monthly dinner meeting features a discussion of "CHIAPAS WOMEN: The Resistance Continues." 6:30 pm. Valencia Hall, 523A Valencia St. 864-1278.

**JUNE 15:** Friends of GLEN CANYON PARK offer a nature walk and discussion of native plant species in Glen Park. 9 am-noon. 584-8576.

**JUNE 15:** Learn the secrets of summer pruning at a SLUG "Green Gardening" class. 10 am-noon. Call 285-7584 for Mission District location.

**JUNE 15:** Cruise the galaxy and make a star map in STAR TREKKING, a class for ages 8 and up. 1 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

**JUNE 15:** The YO-YO MAN, Daniel Volk, performs yo-yo and paddleball tricks for all ages. 2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 15:** MARCIA MULLER signs her book *Broken Promise Land* at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore. 2-3 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444

**JUNE 15:** ROVA SAXOPHONE Quartet and the Splatter Trio perform eclectic music at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**JUNE 15 & 16:** Find Treasures at the Dominican Guild's GARAGE SALE in the ICA Cateria. 10 am-4 pm. 24th St. at Guerrero. 824-2052.

**JUNE 15-AUG 10:** Children under 13 are invited to participate in the library's SUMMER READING Program. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 16:** Celebrate Father's Day with a BICYCLE TOUR and breakfast at the Zoo. 8:30 am. Meet at the South Gate. 1 Zoo Road. 753-7080.

**JUNE 16:** The Tse Chen Ling Center offers a children's BUDDHIST program. 10-11:30 am. 4 Joost Ave. 333-3261.

**JUNE 16:** ZOO SUMMER SCHOOL classes begin for ages 4-11. For a reservation, call 753-7073.

**JUNE 18:** The S.F. Arthritis Foundation sponsors an eight-week exercise program for people with ARTHRITIS. 4:45-5:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831 or 673-6882.

**JUNE 20:** LA LECHE LEAGUE'S monthly meeting discusses the relationship of the family and the breastfed baby. 12:15 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 282-7816.

**JUNE 20:** The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore offers a BOOKSIGNING by authors Lia Madera and Pete Hautman. 4-5 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444

**JUNE 20:** New Dawn Yoga Therapy hosts a class in VEGETARIAN COOKING in the Noe Valley Ministry kitchen. 6-8 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831.

**JUNE 20:** The Green City Project celebrates SUMMER SOLSTICE at Ocean Beach near Sloat. Bring food, friends, musical instruments, and warm clothes at dusk. 285-6556.

**JUNE 20:** The SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS hold a summer solstice party. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

**JUNE 23:** Mission YMCA sponsors a "By-the-Bay" BIKE-A-THON for families. 7 am. 3 Corn (Candlestick) Park, near Gate E. Call 586-6900 to register.

**JUNE 23:** The 3300 Club hosts a publication PARTY for *Poetry at the 33 Review II*. 2 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

**JUNE 23:** Walter Mosley signs his new Easy Rawlins MYSTERY, *Little Yellow Dog*. 4-5 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**JUNE 24:** Actor and playwright Harriet Schiffer teaches a seven-week lab in STAGE PRESENCE. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 695-7886 for details.

**JUNE 25:** POETS Cydney Chadwick and John High read from their work. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494

**JUNE 26:** The Noe Valley Library BOOK DISCUSSION group explores Leslie Silko's *The Almanac of the Dead*. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**JUNE 27:** MIKEYTOM MARKET hosts "Shop with Pride," with 20% of the day's receipts going to benefit the AIDS Memorial Grove; live entertainment 6-9 pm. 1747 Church St. 826-5757

**JUNE 27:** Good Vibrations hosts a BOOK PARTY for Susie Bright and Jill Posener's *Nothing But the Girl*. 8-10 pm. 1210 Valencia St. 974-8980.

**JUNE 28:** The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco hosts its 18th annual PRIDE CONCERT. 8 pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 392-4400.

**JUNE 28 & 29:** Community Music Center offers REGISTRATION for the Summer Session. Fri., 3-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**JUNE 28-30:** Natural Resources offers a three-day LABOR ASSISTANT training program. Fri., 7-9:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 9:30 am-4:30 pm. 4081 24th St. Call 550-2611 for preregistration.

**JUNE 29:** Local environmental groups sponsor a PUBLIC HEARING on the sustainability plan for San Francisco. 9 am-1 pm. Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St.

**JUNE 29-30:** Join the two-day GAY PRIDE Celebration. Gay Pride Family Day is all day Sat., June 29, at Justin Herman Plaza. Parade is Sun., June 30, starting at 11 am, along Market Street from 8th to the Embarcadero. 864-3733.

**JUNE 30:** Vocalist Andrei Glase, flutist Kara Koffron, and pianist Renee Witon perform MUSIC by Bach, Canteloube, Messiaen & Debussy. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.



Illustration by Karol Barske.

## Drop Us a Line by June 15

Do you have a garage sale, SAFE meeting, poetry reading, exercise class, tree-planting, or fireworks celebration planned for July? We are happy to promote neighborhood events for free in the *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar.

To get a notice in our next issue—which will be distributed in Downtown Noe Valley on Wednesday, July 3—send us the scoop by June 15. Mail your item to the *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. Note that items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. Thanks. □

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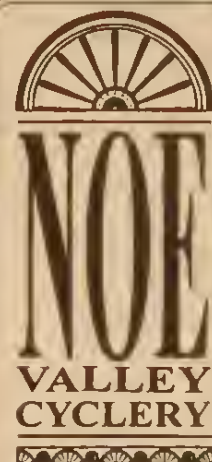


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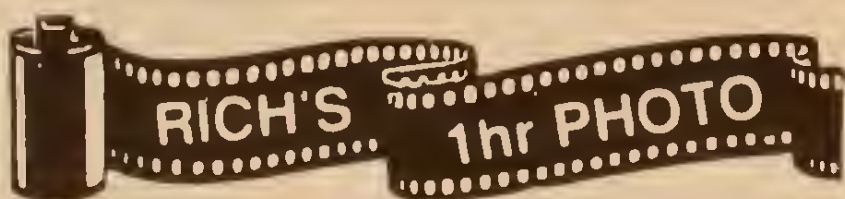
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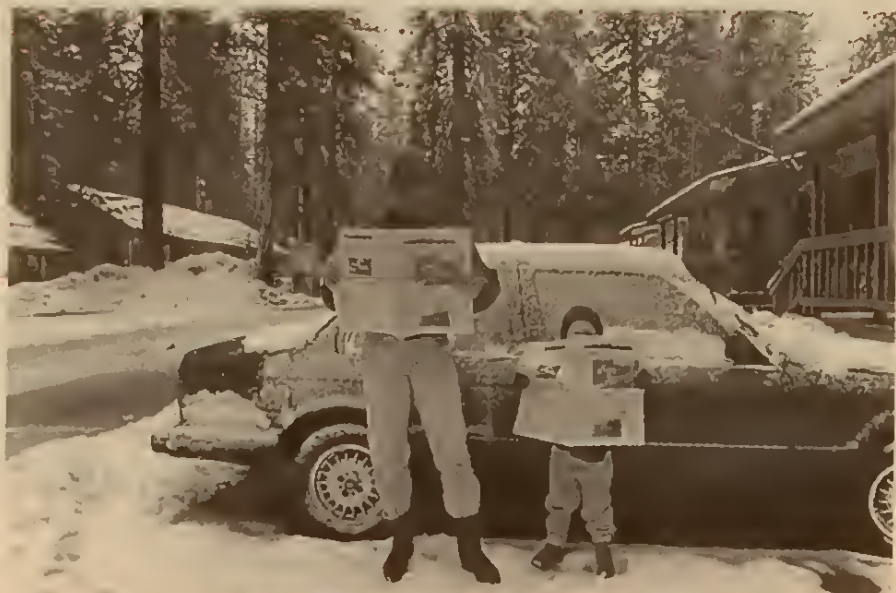


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## You Can Get There from Here



Somewhere far to the east of Noe Valley at a place called Lake Tahoe, white stuff falls from the sky—even in March. But the intrepid explorers Michael and Sam Fields have their eyes on the news from familiar lands (until they're reminded that the roads sometimes close here, and they don't even have chains).

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Way up north went Marion Heimsoth in the company of her daughter Alice last November. They parked their parkas in Juneau, Alaska, and when they weren't reading totems, they poured over every word of the more familiar Noe Valley Voice.

Photo by Alice Heimsoth



Adam Rose just can't stay put. Last August he moved to Noe Valley from Los Angeles. But by December he was on the road to visit family in Israel. Then in March of this year, a visit to a high school friend in British Columbia seemed in order. The above photo shows him while in Victoria, B.C., and reveals that he may be on his way to becoming a less mobile Noe Valleon. Why else would he be reading the Class Ads of a community newspaper in a place 900 miles away?

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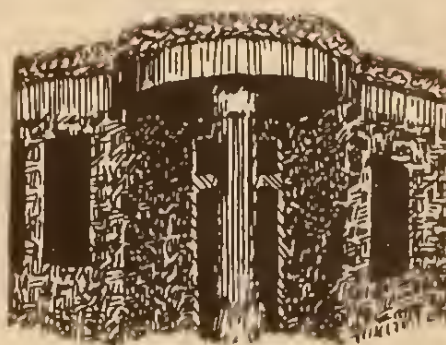
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Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

### Meanderings on Art, Victorians, and Television

On our Dolores Heights hill, a row of charming cottages between Castro and Noe on 21st Street never fails to capture my attention as I walk to and from the 24-Divisadero bus line. Because the cottages are situated almost at eye level, they are difficult to overlook, especially since their delightfully patterned wooden facades are so visually engaging.

The first house sits about a hundred yards from Castro Street and is followed by a dozen carbon copies marching up the slope of 21st Street. Each two-story house is identical: from the peak of the roof to the ornate post at the sidewalk entry.

On the top half of the facade of each house, there are wooden shingles applied three different ways. On the lower portion, narrow tongue-and-groove siding completes the design. In addition, a pair of lovely, feathery, carved wood decorations frames the small porch at the doorway.

I have often wondered who the creator was, but it was only recently that John Barbey of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association kindly enlightened me.

His research has determined that in 1903 and 1904, Isaac Anderson built the 15 Stick-style Queen Anne cottages from 3816 to 3856 21st St.

Mr. Anderson must have been as busy as the designs he created on the facades, for he is listed not only as the builder but as architect, carpenter, and general contractor!

Three of these abodes have been radically altered, but the remaining 12, all in mint condition at 92 years of age, retain their original design. Each house, however, has a character of its own, shown through variations in color scheme and garden style. Some gardens are bricked, some are landscaped, and one is a jungle of lush greenery so thick you can barely see the house.

I have noticed over the years how each house takes on the unique personality of its inhabitants. You get a sense of this as you walk by, since the homes

are located on the sunny side of the street and much of the household activity occurs in the small front garden area.

At one home you might see children playing. At another, the owner is out gardening. At yet another, the resident can be seen relaxing with a book or simply basking in the sunshine.

I once stopped and talked to a man who was out sunning his red-tailed hawk. That was a real treat. My son Eric, a toddler at the time, was very interested in that bird!

These days one of the houses has achieved minor celebrity status. The one at number 3824 was chosen to be a setting for the new television series *Nash Bridges*. (The *Voice* did a story about this in our April edition.)

Maybe it was picked because it is the only one in the group that has a garage—and even it is a tight squeeze, judging from the scoop modeling on the sidewalk (to enable the car's crankcase to clear the high point of the driveway).



No, Florence hasn't decided to live out of a shopping cart. She's just sketching a row of Victorians on 21st Street, now part of the set for the *Nash Bridges* TV show. Photo by Leo Holub

The first week of May, I was strolling by as usual when I stopped to watch part of the filming and do some sketches of the block. That reminded me of an incident from a while ago.

In the late '50s when our youngest son, Eric, was attending play school at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, we regularly passed by the row of cottages as we walked to the center. One day, upon returning home, I hit on the idea of an art project for Eric inspired by the houses we had just observed.

Using cutouts from color charts and wallpaper books, we constructed a series of shapes like the little Victorians. I arranged the paper houses in a line for Eric to glue down on poster board while I prepared dinner, thinking that he could later add windows and with crayons create the gardens in front.

When I stopped cooking to inspect his progress, I was astonished at what he had done. Instead of being in a line, the houses were all up in the air, upside

down, and pointing in every direction.

"What happened?" I asked.

Our unruffled 3-year-old explained tersely: "A tomic eksploion."

At his tender age, Eric was already acquainted with the destructive power of the A-bomb. He got this information, no doubt, from television.

This is only one example of the impression that the media can leave upon an uncluttered mind. I saw an even more illuminating example years later, when I observed a teenager who was a patient at Laguna Honda Hospital, in the same section where my brother Ward spent his last years.

This young man, whom I will call Hal, had been severely injured in an automobile accident as an infant, and was left paralyzed and unable to communicate. He had to be lifted between his bed and his wheelchair, for he was able only to move jerkily, like a baby. I had never seen him smile.



Gary, the caller, went over to see what Hal was acting up about, and was amazed but delighted when he saw that he had a bingo! Without a bit of supervision or schooling except for television, Hal had learned his numbers well enough to play bingo and win a prize—a chocolate chip cookie, which he ate with relish.

From that day on, Hal was given every opportunity to develop his skills—swimming, physical therapy, and excursions to the park, beach, or restaurants.

One day as Hal was being wheeled off with a group of patients about his own age, I got a glimpse of his face. He was smiling from ear to ear!

The events I have recounted suggest that television can be a wonderful tool for teaching, but, sadly, the medium is too often used merely to sell merchandise.

This brings my thoughts back to the television series *Nash Bridges*, which my man Leo and I try to watch on Friday nights, hoping to see our neighborhood on film. (It airs at 9 p.m. on Channel 5.)

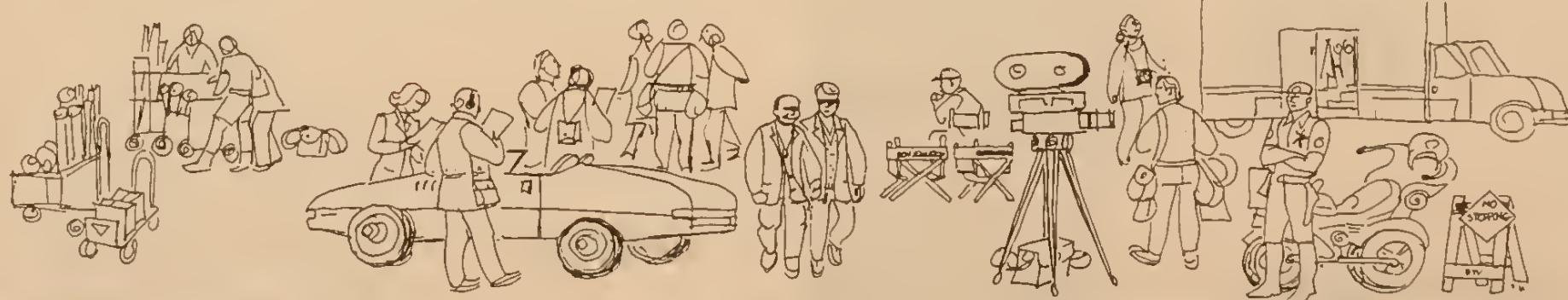
On the first episode of the show, the interior of the house on 21st Street came through nicely but far too rapidly. On the second episode, the shot of the now-gone farmhouse at the corner of 21st and Sanchez went by so quickly that we did not recognize it.

And when we thought we had identified the detectives' headquarters as the domed interior of the downtown Emporium, we learned that this setting was not filmed in San Francisco but in Oakland!

Although this exciting series is well done, and its amiable star Don Johnson speaks highly of our city, the show goes by much too fast for my taste. The commercials are so long and drawn out, they almost put us to sleep.

If the action could be slowed down to match the commercials, we could appreciate not only the plot, but the shots of our neighborhood in the background.

Until then, I guess we will just have to settle for the real thing! □



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## BURYN'S EYE VIEW



**Two Ways to Walk a Dog:** The fisher person (top) plays out plenty of line as her pet flows with the current. The recycler (bottom) totes two plastic bags—one for aluminum, another for other findings. (We're sure that second one is in his pocket.) Photos by Ed Buryn



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**Lest Voice Readers Think** that our editorial policy has gone completely to the dogs, we present this photo of Church Street's most famous cat, Jessie, who at the time of this photo had mastered handwriting and etiquette but still had a bit to learn about the art of sign posting.

Photo by Nojib Joe Hokim

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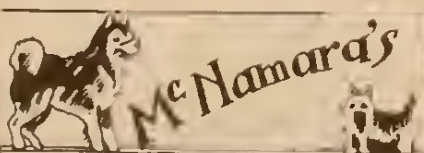
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Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

**Castro Area Planning + Action**  
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,  
100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

**Clipper Street SAFE Group**  
Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson,  
821-3866  
Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany  
Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**  
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,  
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,  
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Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings  
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**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**  
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,  
Keith Eickman, 282-8988,  
Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or  
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street  
Improvement Club**  
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,  
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Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,  
24th & Guerrero. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley**  
Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502  
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**La Leche League of San Francisco**  
Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566,  
San Francisco, CA 94146-0566  
Meetings: Third Thursday of month,  
Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day &  
Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or  
Hilda Bemstein, 282-8232  
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Mission/Noe Valley Kiwanis Club**  
Contact: Glen Potter, 824-3233  
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San Francisco, CA 94114

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**  
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Wednesday, 7 p.m.;  
held at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey  
St., but call for specifics.

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals  
Association**  
Contact: J. P. Gillen, Little Italy, 821-1515  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 460574,  
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Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank  
of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

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**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**  
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 284 29th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's  
Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

**21st Street 4000 Block SAFE**  
Contact: Santiago Rodriguez  
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Held periodically.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,  
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Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe  
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## Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

### 'The Little Miracle' on Dolores Street

By Stephanie Levin-Gervasi

When it comes to our children, we can often make the impossible happen. No one understands this better than parents at Children's Day School (CDS), located across from Mission Dolores at 333 Dolores St.

Last March, the school's founder, Jim Robinson, entered into negotiations with Synergy School to sell Children's Day School. To many of the families, the sale appeared inevitable.

Not so! The CDS parent body felt so strongly about maintaining the nurturing preschool atmosphere and exceptional staff at the school that the parents—under what many have coined "the little miracle on Dolores Street"—have purchased the school.

As of May 1, Children's Day School moved from a sole proprietorship to a nonprofit corporation under the guidance of Head Director Sandra Luna and a governing board. (Founder Jim Robinson remains on the board.)

Already a well-respected feeder school for the city's finest elementary schools, Children's Day School will ultimately extend its topnotch educational program through the fifth grade. Classes currently run from toddler (2 years) through the second grade, with third grade scheduled to be added for the 1997 school year.

Children's Day School's extensive art program and progressive hands-on philosophy have been the cornerstone of school life since its inception in 1983.

Each year, the children put on a "Showcase of the Arts," with individual artwork displayed and group art projects for sale. This year's showcase will be held on Saturday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with the usual pie-in-the-face game booths and food festivities for the entire family. Entrance is free and the public is cordially invited.

While the arts program will remain a key aspect of the Children's Day School curriculum, the school has recently placed an added emphasis on its gardening and farm program. Children's Day School is one of four schools in Northern California to offer "country wonders within urban confines."

Ms. Piggy, Nanny Goat, and the duckling family rule the school's barnyard, where the children visit and care for them. In addition, the farm program allows the children to get their hands dirty tending the beanstalk and radish patches, while the weed plucking is relegated to parent volunteers.

In the not so distant future, students will have the opportunity to share in a very special enrichment program. Upon completion of the Notre Dame senior citizen housing project next door to the school, Children's Day School intends to implement an intergenerational school program.

For more information about Children's Day School or enrollment, please call (415) 861-5432.

Twenty-eighth Street residents Stephanie Levin-Gervasi and Luis Gervasi are the parents of a 4 1/2-year-old daughter, Camille, now in her second year at Children's Day School. Says Mom, "She's a Lion Cub," and proud of it.

### Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your letters, first-person essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on Noe Valley people and pastimes. Please mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,000 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. □

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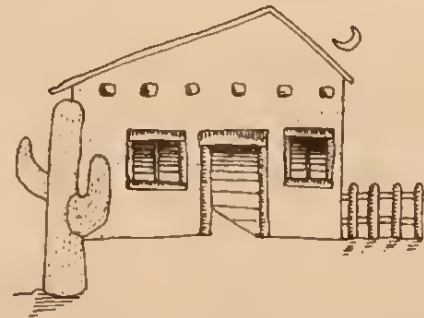
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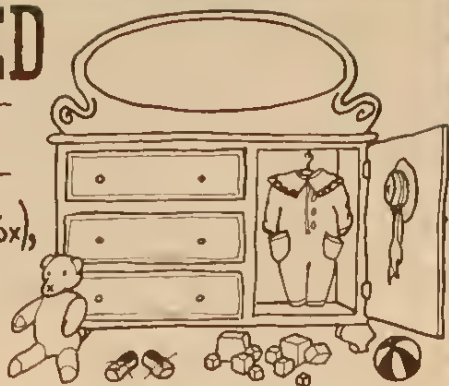
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## MORE MOUTHS to feed

### Carlos Miguel Cake

By Maire Farrington

How would you like to celebrate not one but two birthdays? Meet someone who does just that: Carlos Miguel Cake. Born in Guatemala on May 21, 1993 (where he tipped the scales at 7 pounds, 1 ounce), Carlos also celebrates each Nov. 5—his official "coming home day"—with his adoptive parents, Cindy and Steve Cake.

Steve, 54, a terminal inspector for the California Highway Patrol, and Cindy, 43, formerly a financial analyst and now a full-time homemaker, first met Carlos at the age of 10 weeks, when they traveled to Guatemala in July of 1993.

"We hadn't said yes [to the adoption] yet. We'd said, 'We're interested.' But once we met him, he stole our hearts about *that* fast," says Steve with a quick snap of his fingers. Three months later, he and Cindy made a second trip to Guatemala to bring Carlos home.

"At that time, Guatemala was a place that was relatively permissive about adoptions, and so it happened fairly quickly," Cindy points out. "It was a culture we could understand and relate to more than that of China, which was another possibility. I thought I could learn Spanish maybe—but Chinese, I didn't know." Both she and Steve took Spanish lessons for over a year in preparation for the adoption.

Now 3 years old, Carlos is a cheerful, energetic little boy with big brown eyes and dark brown hair. He's in a play group with three other children, and shares a part-time sitter, Vilma, with a friend. He also hangs out regularly with his mom in Precita Park, near their Bernal Heights home.

"I like that park because it's a real nice mix of Spanish-speaking as well as Anglo kids, so Carlos fits in," Cindy says. "There are a lot of families there that have parents and children who don't all match. They're either adopted or it's an interracial family, and I like that. It's very comfortable."

The Cakes also spend considerable time in Noe Valley. "We shop there, a number of our friends live in the neighborhood, and Carlos and I like to go and hang out on 24th Street," Cindy says.

Cindy and Steve are also both elders in the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church on Sanchez Street, and were married there by Rev. Carl Smith in 1987.



Cindy and Steve Cake brought Carlos from Guatemala on Nov. 5, 1993, so the family celebrates two annual holidays—Carlos' "coming home day" and his real birthday May 21, 1993.  
Photo by Tom Wachs

"The Ministry is a major focus in our search for community," Steve says.

"Carlos is a very social kid. He loves people. In spite of all the bad jokes about salesmen, we wonder if he's going to grow up to be one! On the other hand, he could be a politician, or a talk show host, or an artist."

He adds that for Carlos, the "why?" phase started about a month ago. And if their curious son isn't pummeling them with that question, he's demanding, "What are you doing?"

Carlos also loves visiting the "touch" tide pool at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park and going on camping trips. Last month, he, Mom, and Dad took a weekend excursion to Pinnacles National Monument.

He has plenty of fun just being at home, though. "He's easily entertained," says Dad with a grin. "He watches the nightly business report with us. And tonight he watched me wash dishes."

Carlos gets a special kick out of elephants and trains. Last Halloween he was an elephant, complete with tusks and trunk. "This is such a beloved costume that we still go out for walks in it," Steve laughs.

"But we're very into building train stations these days," he says, noting that although Carlos has three train sets of his

own, "he's already covetous of his pop's model electric train. He thought it was neater than sliced bread." In fact, before he'd even turned 2, Carlos was speaking his first four-syllable word: *locomotive*.

During his parents' chat with the *Voice*, Carlos sat on the floor and flipped through the pages of *Little Bear's Christmas*, a scratch-and-sniff picture book. His book collection also includes some bilingual and Spanish selections.

Is the entire family bilingual now?

"*Más o menos*," quips Steve. "Carlos figured out early on that some people speak English and other people speak Spanish."

"Our sitter Vilma is Peruvian, and she speaks Spanish to him," says Cindy, "so he's really getting better at it than we are."

As a couple who embraced parenthood later in life, both Steve and Cindy have

been pleasantly surprised by the experience. "It's better than I expected," Cindy says, "and I had high expectations!"

"When we first brought Carlos home," she adds, "people would say, 'Oh, you're doing such a wonderful thing!' But I would tell them *he* was doing a wonderful thing for us."

"Yes," Steve agrees, with a loving glance at his son, "he's been a real blessing." □

**More Mouths to Feed** wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to *The Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □

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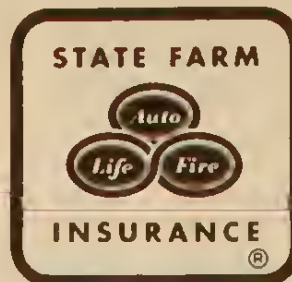
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Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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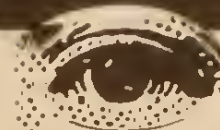
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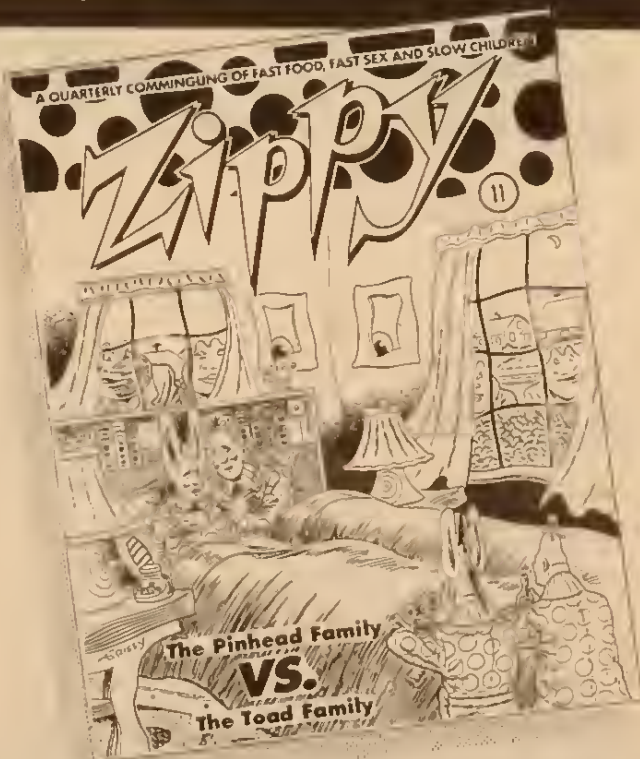
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## MORE BOOKS to READ

Librarians Roberta Greifer, Carol Small, and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks invite you to come in and check out the books and online services available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. (at Castro). Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Phone: 695-5095.

### Adult Fiction

☐ Susan Richards Shreve's *The Visiting Physician* is about a doctor who moves to a town where appearances mask terrible realities. She ultimately unveils the tragic secret of her own past.

☐ 1932 Manchuria provides the setting for Bette Bao Lord's dramatic tale of loyalty, love, and patriotism, *The Middle Heart*.

☐ In *Act of Betrayal*, by Pulitzer Prize-winner Edna Buchanan, a Miami police reporter's investigation of a fatal bombing leads to a personal quest for the truth behind her Cuban father's death.

☐ Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz takes the reader on a spiritual journey through a modern Cairo neighborhood inhabited by the descendants of a feudal lord, the *Children of the Alley*.

☐ Pulitzer Prize-winner Jack Anderson's *Inside the NRA: Armed and Dangerous* is an intensely researched expose of the influential National Rifle Association, its propaganda techniques, and the private agendas of its leadership.

### Adult Non-Fiction

☐ *Creative Techniques for Photographing Children* by Vik Orenstein is a complete guide to producing beautiful, exciting portraits and candid shots of young people.

☐ In *Lost Prince: The Unsolved Mystery of Kaspar Hauser*, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson examines long-lost documentation in an attempt to shed light on Hauser's identity, the reason he was kept in a dungeon for his entire childhood, and why he was murdered in 1833 at the age of 21.

☐ Colette Dowling explores the challenges and options women encounter when they reach midlife in *Red Hot Mamas: Coming Into Our Own at Fifty*.

☐ Pulitzer Prize-winner Jack Anderson's *Inside the NRA: Armed and Dangerous* is an intensely researched expose of the influential National Rifle Association, its propaganda techniques, and the private agendas of its leadership.

### Book of the Month Club

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group will tackle *The Almanac of the Dead* by Leslie Silko on Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

### History Day

*Noe Valley History Day* celebrates the neighborhood 1910-1960, with photos and memorabilia, Jimbo the Clown (2 p.m.), and music by Bruce Sherman (3 p.m.). Saturday, June 1, 2-5 p.m.

### Children's Fiction

☐ The special feelings between a parent and a child are celebrated in *Do You Know How Much I Love You?* by Donna Tedesco. (Ages 2-5.)

☐ A little girl enjoys the company of her artist father and daydreams about her future in *The Painter* by Peter Catalanotto. (Ages 3-5.)

☐ If you enjoy poems and finding things in pictures, you will have hours of fun with *I Spy School Days: A Book of Picture Riddles* by Jean Marzollo, with photographs by Walter Wick. (Ages 2-5.)

☐ When you read *Alphabet City* by Stephen T. Johnson, you will be amazed at the places where the letters of the alphabet turn up. (Ages 3-5.)

☐ Grace doesn't find her storybook family in Africa, but she finds something else very precious in *Boundless Grace* by Mary Hoffman. (Ages 6-8.)

☐ Because of Chandra's understanding of numbers, the hungry villagers are finally fed in *The Rajah's Rice: A Mathematical Folktale from India*, retold by David Barry.

☐ An American flag, green wolf pawprints, and an elephant footprint are all useful clues to the 12-year-old sleuths in *The Case of the Fantastic Footprints* by E. W. Hildick. (Ages 8-11.)

### Children's Non-Fiction

☐ Well-known writer Beverly Cleary describes her college days, her first job as a children's librarian, and the beginning of her writing career in *My Own Two Feet*. (Ages 10 and up.)

### Story Time

*Preschool Story Hour*, for children 3 to 5, unfolds at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, June 4, 11, and 25.

### Lapsits for Babies

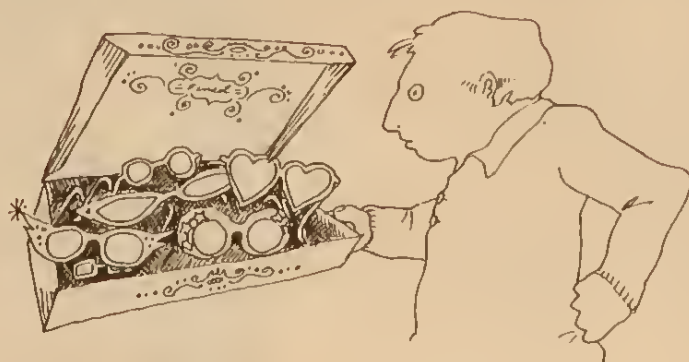
The Wednesday *Lapsits*, on June 5, 12, and 26, feature songs, stories, and fingerplay for infants and toddlers and their parents, 7 p.m.

### The Yo-Yo Man

Daniel Volk will present a program of *yo-yo and paddleball* tricks for all ages. Saturday, June 15, 2 p.m.



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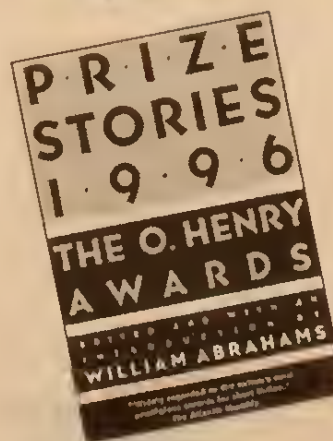
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## Remember all his words of wisdom?



## This Father's Day give him a few in return

And don't forget: Walter the Giant Storyteller will spin a yarn or two at Cover to Cover, June 8 at 10:30 a.m.



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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Our Town

By Mazook

NOE SOAPS have finally hit the Internet. A Noe Valley group is producing "San Francisco Blend," a soap opera following the lives of seven fictional characters living right here in Noe Valley. The three main characters share a Victorian flat just off our main drag (so to speak).

The World Wide Web site for this drama is [www.sfbblend.com](http://www.sfbblend.com). According to co-creators Christina Marie and Ken Laws, of Oo! Oo! I Know! Productions, the page will have its online world premiere on June 17.

However, strictly confidential to all you net-surfers: sneak previews of *SF Blend* start June 1.

"Each character has a diary-type daily entry, accompanied by pictures that are being shot almost entirely on and around 24th Street," explains Christina. "The three main characters are Justin, a comfortably struggling gay New York-born actor; China, a highly caffeinated and sometimes annoyingly perky fitness instructor; and Mark, a lone-wolf programmer and the newest housemate."

Home base is the bench in front of Martha & Brothers coffee store on 24th Street. That's the scene you'll see when entering the web site.

If you look carefully at the cast of characters, you will see some familiar neighborhood faces, says Christina. Some of them work at Tom and Dave's Juice It! or



**Voice Paparazzi** Leo Holub snapped this shot of actor Don Johnson (in back on left) and sidekick Cheech Marin—sorry, no Chong—emerging from the 21st Street house where Nash's ex-wife and daughter live in the popular TV series *Nash Bridges*, shown Friday nights, 9 p.m., on CBS. P.S. The *Voice* just received some email from a *Nash Bridges* fan club on the Net, asking for our April '96 story and photos to post online. We'll let you know next month where our 10 seconds of fame wound up. In the meantime, keep those cameras handy.

at Firefly restaurant. Some are players in the Noe Valley-based comedy improv group Liquid Soap.

*SF Blend* joins a host of other soaps now active on the Net. Some of the more popular are *The Spot*, *East Village*, and *Spike Webb, Net Detective*.

By the way, Liquid Soap the comedy troupe, which also calls itself an "interactive soap opera," is starting a new run

at the Cable Car Theatre (430 Mason St.) from July 12 to Aug. 23. For more info, you can make computer contact via <http://www.bigtimetv.com/liquidsoap/>.

For those of you who still use the telephone, the number in the city is 241-8887.

☎☎☎

**BATTLE MOUNTAIN SOAPS UPDATE:** When we left you last month, developer Seamus McGee and the Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop were rumored to be talking settlement in their dispute over what should go up or come down on a large parcel at Sanchez and 21st streets. Everyone hoped that in addition to the four luxury dwellings Seamus wants to build on the site, he'd be open-minded enough to leave room for open space.

Well, the Neighbors' proposal to downsize the townhouses a bit, and put two houses facing 21st Street and the other

two on Sanchez, leaving a 35-by-105-foot minipark, went exactly nowhere.

So, the two sides were expected to lock horns in a hearing May 16 before the Land Use Committee of the Board of Supervisors to decide an appeal over McGee's "minor encroachment" permit.

You see, McGee's property line is about 20 feet above Sanchez Street. That 20-foot grassy knoll from the sidewalk up to the property line is subject to the public right of way. The Neighbors claim that McGee's permit was improperly issued, and that the proper permit would be for a "major encroachment" on the public right of way.

The last I heard, the matter was referred to the full Board of Supervisors for a May 28 hearing.

A Superior Court hearing had also been set for May 29, to consider the suit brought by five hilltop neighbors against the city for issuing McGee the building permits in the first place.

Then there is the appeal by the Battle Mountain Five of a preliminary injunction ordered by an S.F. Superior Court judge, enjoining them from trespassing on McGee's property.

Should everyone start over? Will the city buy the land from McGee with our open space funds, save the hill and the underground well with its legendary healing waters, and create a butterfly preserve?

Everyone would be happy, except perhaps the anti-butterfly crowd—and, of course, those who would have gladly spent 900K for a home on the hilltop.

Stay tuned for next month's installment of "Battle Mountain," right here at three-dot-com central.

☎☎☎

**SHORT SHRIFTS:** Everybody who crosses Church Street on 26th Street—especially the firefighters from Station 11—is very, very happy that the city finally made the intersection a four-way stop. I hope to have the scoop on this success story next month....

Noe Valleons who shop at Rainbow Grocery (and there are many) are very happy that the affordable organic grocery has moved to larger quarters on Folsom Street at 13th Street. Check it out....

Mystery buffs are extremely happy

*Continued Next Page*

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# RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

with the recent move of the S.F. Mystery Bookstore from cramped quarters at 24th and Diamond to a more spacious setting down the street at 4175 24th St. We're also impressed by the number of outstanding authors coming by to do book signings. John Katz, Marcia Muller, Lia Madera, and Pete Hautman will stop in this month, as will Walter Mosley of *Devil in a Blue Dress* fame. See the *Voice* calendar for dates and times....

The Friends of Noe Valley was happy with the proposals made by the folks opening a new restaurant in the old Courtyard Cafe spot. The organization sent a letter to the city voicing no opposition....

McAteer High School is happy they have a fellow named Bolota Asmeron on the track team. He has run the fastest 3,200-meter race in the country this year.... Speaking of running, customers of the Wine Sellers Market on 24th near Diamond were not happy when the owner put up a "gone fishing" sign on the door and then never came back.

☺☺☺

ALSO NOT SO HAPPY were the neighbors in the immediate vicinity of Hahn's Hibachi on Castro near 24th. Hahn's features Korean-style barbecue and replaced Simon's Spanish Shop, which had been there for over 20 years.

The stink arose shortly after Hahn's opened this past January. Hahn's was an instant success and the grill was very busy. Apparently, odors and exhausts emanating from the barbecue became more than the neighbors could stand.

On April 23 Hahn's owner, Dave Bass, was summoned to a neighbor's back yard to experience what all the stink was about. When he arrived, there were 20 residents in the yard. They wanted to discuss the ways and means of eliminating the heavy cooking odors that had forced many to close their windows and doors during Hahn's business hours.

Mr. Bass assured the group that he would take whatever measures were necessary to control the restaurant's exhaust.

Bass says that after the meeting he contacted several companies for help in solv-

ZIPPY



ing the problem and he has been advised to install "ozone generators" in the ventilation system. These send a small lightning bolt through the smoke and zap the odors. He'll also install a layer of charcoal filters above the generators.

Bass didn't say when work would begin on this filtering system, but everyone hopes it will be soon. In the meantime, the neighbors are still fuming.

☺☺☺

THE FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY has completed its survey of businesses along the 24th Street corridor from Church to Douglass Street.

According to Eleanore Gerhardt, FNV's planning chair, "There are 51 places to eat and drink, or to buy food or coffee. Back in the '80s, we had six bars and 16 restaurants. Now we have five bars and 29 restaurants!"

The survey also shows 36 "retail" stores, 14 clothing stores (all but one for women, I might add), 8 hair salons, 5 nail salons, 5 florists, 5 liquor stores, and 4 bookstores.

The Friends will pass the stats along to Bob Passmore of the Planning Department, in hopes that the city will keep better tabs on our glut of cafes and restaurants. Meanwhile, eat up.

☺☺☺

THERE IS ONLY ONE Back Room Yoga and Bodyworks Studio in Noe Valley (on the corner of Sanchez and 25th), but it appears to be in jeopardy.

According to Back Room owner Susan Branum, the popular exercise spot has lost

its lease and the space will be converted to residential use.

"We hope we can relocate somewhere in this neighborhood," frets Susan, "because so many of our clients—about 70 percent—are from around here and usually walk to our studio."

She says the studio has more than a thousand clients, coming in for yoga classes, Pilates (a personal training method), and orthopedic massage.

"We have until July 31 when our lease runs out, but the owner has told us that he will give us flexibility on moving out until we find suitable space," Susan says.

If you have about 2,000 square feet to let, give Susan a call at 821-2979.

☺☺☺

CONGRATS TO Barry Wood, who carried the Olympic torch for a brief spell while it was going through Sausalito on its way to Atlanta for the Summer Games.

Barry, who has mended our Wooden Heels on 24th Street for the past 20 years, was chosen because of his 10-year-old daughter's entry in a national contest sponsored by Coca Cola.

Gina Wood, a fifth-grader at St. Philip School, wrote: "My dad should be chosen to carry the Olympic torch because (a) he knows how to run and he won't fall down, (b) he is a good person, and (c) he is the best dad in the universe."

Gina got word that she was a winner April 14, when the president of Coca Cola called to inform her personally.

So, on May 4 at 6:30 a.m., Barry and his wife, Patti, along with Gina, Amy, and Kevin, and about 20 Noe Valley supporters, arrived at the designated spot in Sausalito.

Barry was handed the torch by someone who got it from Ruth Brinker, founder of Open Hand. He ran about a half a mile and then passed it on to another person heading up the coast.

Gina was right. He didn't fall down. And no, he didn't drop the torch either. Good work, Barry.

So it goes. And so do I. Ciao for now.



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**Bodywork for Humans** is not bodywork for your car. 273-1092.

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**Unity and Diversity: Comparative Religions.** Much of the world's troubles are caused by religious dissension, but when we look deeply at world religious traditions, we find one truth clothed in diverse languages. Robert Fox, M.A., holds degrees in philosophy and religion and teaches at Las Positas and Chabot colleges and the University of Phoenix. Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Experienced Florist** to begin floral arrangement classes soon. 585-4321.

**Housecleaner Needed** every two weeks for senior citizen in Noe Valley. Three hours, \$40. Call 826-2044.

**Women's Spiritual Consciousness Group.** Guided by licensed M.F.C.C., spiritual medium (psychic) and Amana bodywork student Robin Stuart. Robin helps you to expand your own divine energy by confronting your mind/ego. This is a serious self-evaluating process using meditation, spiritual-release bodywork, urban questings, writings, and group reflection. (415) 821-4740.

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**Want an Evening Activity to Soothe, nurture, and energize you?** Come relax and learn to use visualization, a powerful tool accessing your innermost desires and helping create the life you want. June 6, Nurturing Yourself; June 13, Meeting Spirit Guides; June 20, Overcoming Fears; June 27, Blue Light Healing. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Noe Valley location. Tapes and individual sessions also available. Call for information or to be added to my mailing list: Ruth Szilagyi, (415) 824-3281.

**Wanted: Photographer** Wants to rent black/white darkroom in or near Noe Valley. Prefer daytime access. 647-6428.

**Housecleaning.** Fast, reliable perfectionist. Help a middle-aged graduate student change careers. Lucy, 282-3676.

**June 15, Saturday, and June 16, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Dominican Guild garage sale. ICA cafeteria, 24th and Guerrero streets, San Francisco. Benefit Dominican Sisters.

## CLASADS

**Bodywork for Humans** is offered only in a clean, central, downtown office. 273-1092.

**Yoga in Noe Valley:** Many classes and times, in the wonderful Vini yoga style! Special classes for arthritis, and private lessons. New Dawn Yoga Therapy, 285-1831.

**Office Space:** Office available on Potrero Hill. Quiet, sunny, easy parking. Share suite with psychotherapists and massage therapists. 642-9064.

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**Need Housework?** Twelve years' cleaning in Noe Valley. References. \$11/hour. Stephanie, 282-3176.

**Seeking Office Space** in Noe Valley. Writer/designer seeks quiet and sunny space alone or to share. Lynn, 824-9042.

**For Rent: Upper Noe Flat.** Immaculate, sunny, top-floor flat, three bedrooms, two baths. Fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room with fireplace, washer/dryer in basement. Quiet neighborhood, great views, walk to 24th Street and transportation. Available July 1. \$1,600. 695-9571.

**Meditation Workshop.** A practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, June 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Two Responsible Women Seek** one/two-bedroom apartment or house, under \$950 for long-term rental. Will pay \$100 finder's fee upon move-in. Call Jo Ellen or Mandy at (408) 685-3557 or e-mail to [janderson@santacruz.k12.ca.us](mailto:janderson@santacruz.k12.ca.us).

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**Charming Partly Furnished Victorian** house for rent, available July 1 for three to six months (possibly longer). Three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, sunroom, hardwood floors, dining room, bay views on quiet upper Noe Street near bus and cafes. References, please. Sorry, no pets and no smokers. \$2,900/month. 821-1085.

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**Dog Walk Exchange.** Going on vacation June 29 until July 8, need my small dog walked every a.m. for one-half hour in exchange for dog walk, house-sit, or housepainting (professional). Call 206-0646.

**Garage Wanted.** Garage wanted for parking one small car. Tandem parking okay. Vicinity of Eureka and 20th streets. 826-6074.

**Healthy Relationships.** Is your relationship in trouble? Or are you in a good relationship that has occasional difficulties? Relationship therapy with a problem-solving focus for individuals and couples. Noe Valley. Insurance accepted. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 824-3701.

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**Words Wanted:** *The Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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**Guitars Wanted.** Martin, Fender, Gibson, etc. Top cash paid. 647-7777.

**Psychotherapy Offices for Rent** in newly remodeled, soundproofed Victorian suite. Hayes Valley, Gough and Fell. Three offices, \$375-\$650/month. Some day rentals available. 648-8441 or 826-5810.

**Wanted:** Noe Valley Large Studio/Workspace or small bedroom apartment. Prefer sunny, view location, quiet with garden, deck, or patio, tub. Available immediately. Responsible woman with responsible cat, in the Bay Area 16 years, in business for herself. Impeccable local references. 931-1245.

**Coteman Spa for Sale.** New was \$5,000. Must sell, moving. Seats three. Portable, self-contained, fits through standard door. Ozone cleaning system means no chemicals. Excellent condition. Over \$400 of new stuff. Heats gas or electric. Place on level ground and plug in. Valued at over \$3,000. Asking \$2,800. Call Barbara, 648-5666.

**Monthly Writers Group** for women meets in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing, publishing, and creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation. Individual consultation available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. (415) 282-5965.

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**Reward for Loyalty:** The *Voice* prints a news edition 10 months a year. (We publish a special literary issue in August; January is our vacation month.) If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

**The Next Voice** will be the July 1996 issue, arriving in Downtown Noe Valley on Wednesday, July 3. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check (made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*) so that we receive it by June 15. The address is **Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.** Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in boldface type. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. □

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**Housecleaning.** Reliable, experienced, careful. References. For more information call 641-0169, Edna.

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## Fiction

## Tourist Trap

Jim Christie

OUR VAN RUMBLED along a dusty trail and threw clouds into hard, placid faces bobbing over rice fields—imagined faces, shaded by conical hats. The life of a millennium was a blur, sacred and constant to them, scenery to us. Wooden plow. Water buffalo. Reap. sow. Forever.

Where the ever-present rice fields stopped, swaying palm trees or dense, verdant jungle took over. Above it all, encircling the lowlands like an arena, were massive cumulus clouds exploding upwards to a silver-blue sky. The oppressive heat was allayed by the breeze flowing through the van's open windows. Although moist and heavy, the air felt good and dried the sweat on our faces.

We considered ourselves travelers and had united for a day to get off the tourist track. Now that we were heading east on this powdery loop toward the South China Sea, we had done it.

Most tourists booked a sleeper from Hue to Hanoi and hurtled through the former demilitarized zone under cover of darkness. They were weary of war reminders—bullet-scarred flagstones, cement pillboxes neat bridges and tunnels, begging war veterans missing a limb or two—but rushed to see more in Hanoi.

We wanted to explore the "undiscovered" areas, which required perseverance to reach. The village of Vinh Moc and its tunnel network was such a place. There were six of us in an old Russian van: four Westerners (an Australian, a young Belgian woman, myself, and one other American) who had met through a notice posted in one of Hue's traveler hangouts, and two Vietnamese—the driver and guide we had hired.

Soon into the trip Ron, the other American, and I had struck up a conversation.

He was a Vietnam war vet trying to chase away 25-year-old nightmares. Cecile, the Belgian woman, was friendly until she heard our conversation. She looked at us with contempt and said that America should quit putting its nose into everybody's business.

Cecile was hard to look at: orange hair in a pageboy cut, clashing red lipstick, glassy blue eyes, and skin so white it seemed to have been incubated in a nightclub. She noticed my head pull back a little as I took her in.

She criticized our involvement in Vietnam, and now in Bosnia. She believed in survival of the fittest. She rejected with a shrug my suggestion that Belgium might today be part of a greater Hitlerian Germany if not for America.

"I'm tired of Americans talking about saving the world," she said with finality.

"What do you want to talk about?" asked Ron.

"How about silence?" she sighed. "Let's just be quiet for a while."

We resumed gazing and daydreaming. We drove through villages of bamboo huts, and it was obvious from the way people came out and stared that they didn't see many vehicles out here. Kids ran to the roadside, pointed and waved, but some looked frightened when they saw alien white faces.

Our guide, Thanh, ignored Cecile's request for silence. He kept up a rapid-fire Vietnamese patter aimed at the driver, who laughed frequently at the apparent jokes. Brad, the Aussie, didn't stay quiet either. He slapped out a beat on his thighs and

hummed some obscure Australian rock number. Listening to his off-key droning was worse than silence or an argument. I wished someone would start talking again.

Ron obliged me. "It's so strange being back after all these years," he said. "I'm actually lucky to be here."

"Why's that?" I asked.

"One time, I was sure I was gonna die."

My raised eyebrows urged him on. I stole a quick glance at Cecile. Her pinched expression made her face even whiter than before, but she said nothing.

"The most scared I've ever been," Ron continued, "We were goin' into a hot LZ..."

"What's that?" Brad interrupted.

"A really bad landing zone. One where you're gettin' shot at. Anyway, we're flying in to pick up wounded. Heavy duty—lead really flying. Viet Cong ate in the bush shootin' at the guys dragging the wounded to the choppers, and some of our guys are covering 'em, spraying the jungle. You could hear bullets pinging off the rotors and smacking the sides of the choppers. Usually we'd bug out when it got like that. Just too damn hot. No choice but to fly out." He paused now, shaking his head. Brad had stopped drumming. Thanh also was quiet.

"That day," Ron went on, "I decided I wasn't gonna bug out. I was gonna hang in and rescue these guys. I sat in my chopper sweating and cringing, saying, 'Come on, hurry up, dammit,' praying we'd get out alive. I'm out in the open, really fidgety, and suddenly there's a lull in the firing. I think maybe it's gonna be all right after all. But then I look over at the edge of the jungle and see two Viet Cong run out. One of 'em kneels down. He has an RPG—a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. Aims it right at me! I thought I was a goner."

out to look at us. As we neared the end of a row of huts, a small dark form darted toward the van and, almost simultaneously, we heard a muted thud.

"He hit a dog!" cried Cecile.

We all shifted around and looked back through the swirling dust. Some of the villagers ran onto the road and started gesturing as we drove away.

"Shouldn't we stop?" I asked Thanh.

He turned and said, "It was just a dog," and calmly faced forward again.

We shrugged and held up open palms as if to say, who are we to question it? It's their country, their way, a different culture.

THE TUNNELS WERE narrow and confining, so much so that Cecile pleaded claustrophobia and backed out. The rest of us squeezed through, slithered and crept like the centipedes, scorpions, and rats living there now. Thanh led us along slick walls of perspiring clay and delivered a languorous monologue:

"In 1966, the people could no longer withstand the bombing. They started to dig these tunnels. They had no machines. Only their hands and some simple tools. It took them two years to dig two miles of tunnels. Eventually, everyone in the village, twelve hundred people, moved underground. I was born here."

"Down here?" Brad asked.

"Yes. We lived in rooms like this." His flashlight limned the cramped dimensions of a cubicle gouged from clay.

"Unbelievable," Ron muttered.

"Did the bombs ever reach this deep?" I asked.

"Sometimes," Thanh said, "but it was still better to be down here."

Enervated by a half-hour bent over in

## SUPERFLUITY

Mark Scott

Sprinklets work opposite the rain  
and make themselves superfluous,  
but nobody's home to turn the  
system off.

The lights, too, waste away in the  
living room.

A black tertier in there  
keeps a yellow tennis ball in play.

When people come home,  
they let the dog out,  
turn the sprinklers off,  
let the dog back in.

They tell each other they're tired.  
They turn the lights off and turn in.

The dog alone persists:  
his ball's the bright spot in the house,  
his lawn's the greenest on the block,  
and all his systems go.

Day Street resident Mark Scott has poems forthcoming in the Paris Review.

"What'd you do?" I asked and had the fleeting thought that Thanh, who was from the north, might be offended by the story.

"Everything starts moving in slow motion. The guy has me in his sights. I'm just frozen, waiting. But then he swings the RPG left, aims it about twenty yards in front of me, and pulls the trigger. The grenade exploded just as I started to lift off. I don't know what happened to the guys we left behind; probably died."

"You're lucky, mate," said Brad. "Why didn't he shoot right at ya?"

"We could only figure one thing. When I reported back to base, this one colonel said whoever was training the Cong—the Russians or Chinese—taught them to always lead flying targets. Well, Charlie followed instructions, but I wasn't flying yet. Pute luck."

The van quieted. We came upon another settlement and curious villagers came

mutky confinement and stifling heat, we emerged sweat-soaked into white daylight, pupils contracting in shock.

Ron and I walked to the van. "There is no way we could've won that war," he said as we climbed in.

WE DROVE BACK the same route, absorbed in our own thoughts and visions, contemplating the tenacity of these people. The landscape took on a dreamlike quality until the van slowed suddenly, drawing our attention to the roadway ahead. We rolled to a stop in front of a fallen tree blocking our way.

When Thanh and the driver got out to move the tree, villagers materialized like specters from the foliage on either side and surrounded them, raging. A few children stood off to the side and watched. We sat frozen in the swollen heat of the van and listened to the argument twist and curl.

*When the clamor died down, Thanh walked over and leaned through an open window. "Their dog is dead and you must pay them for it," he announced, his voice as bland and expressionless as his face.*

Cecile became more agitated as the argument wore on, and finally exclaimed, "They can't do this! Let's move the tree and get out of here. To hell with them!"

"No," said Ron, "We should let this play itself out. It might be between them."

Ron's reasoning prevailed. The rest of us weren't as brave or as stupid as Cecile.

When the clamor died down, Thanh walked over and leaned through an open window. "Their dog is dead and you must pay them for it," he announced, his voice as bland and expressionless as his face.

Fear momentarily thrust aside, our protests erupted and intertwined in the humid air, Cecile's louder than anyone's: "No way...the driver's fault...said it was just a dog...damn thing outta the toad..."

"Please. Stop!" Thanh's words sliced through the racket. "It does not matter who is driving, or if their dog is on the road. You have come here. If you do not come here, this will not happen. It is you who are responsible. You must pay them."

More objections bubbled up, but Thanh just turned away and walked back toward the villagers. Realizing they would be paid, the villagers now spoke in the moderate tones of a business negotiation. When an amount was agreed upon, we chipped in to pay the trifling sum, the tree swung back, and we drove away.

Miles slipped by like words read but not understood. A few listless threads of conversation drifted away on the breeze. When our tension began to subside, a few dark balloons of humor were floated. I wondered how much a pedigreed dog would have cost. Brad asked how much for a kid. Cecile told us to shut up. She was still mad that we'd given the villagers anything and refused to look at the event from their perspective.

"Cecile," I said, "wouldn't you agree that the dog would still be alive if we hadn't come here?"

"It wasn't our fault," she said, glaring at me.

A few moments later, she tapped Thanh on the shoulder. "Wasn't there another way out of there?" she asked.

"One other road," he said quietly, "but they cut down a tree there also." ♦

Writer Jim Christie has been "on sabbatical" from the Voice for the past six months while working on a novel and cutting a CD with the band the Sin Eaters. He'll be back in town this summer, just in time to help out with the Literary Issue.

## Writers, Poets

The Noe Valley Voice invites submissions of essays, fiction, or poetry for The Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, typed and double-spaced, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We also invite you to enter our second annual Literary Contest (see details on page 2). The results will be published in the August 1996 issue of the Voice, described by Examiner columnist Stephanie Salter as "the perfect, only-in-San-Francisco phenomenon: a neighborhood literary review."